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MID & WEST KENT EDITION

Issue no 502

PC 'pods' are the future as police chief says stations must close

By Chrissie Daniels

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KENT Police are planning to shut down police stations and public enquiry counters, as well as cut service opening hours, in a bid to save £779,000.

Vulnerable victim suites, which support victims of sexual abuse, are also under threat.

The force has revealed the proposed cuts in its 'estates strategy', which looks at the effectiveness and public use of police buildings.

It aims to save £425,000 on civilian police staff and £354,000 on other areas such as building running costs.

The savings will help towards its target to slash a massive £53 million over four years.

It is not yet known which areas will be affected by the proposals. Stations and public enquiry counters will be

judged based on the number of people visiting in an hour.

If the number is significantly less than three people, they could be at risk.

By closing public enquiry counters the force hopes to save £149,000 on civilian police staff and £255,000 on building running costs.

It plans to save a further £276,000 on staffing costs by cutting the opening hours of police buildings.

Currently Kent Police operate 19 police stations, 26 police offices and 10 vulnerable victim units.

There are 32 public enquiry counters within these buildings.

The counters will be replaced by mobile police vans and state-of-the-art 'pods' - mini caravan-sized police stations - set up in busy areas where the public can call in to discuss policing issues.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth said

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HODGSON'S CAREER KICKED OFF IN KENT

TOP JOB: England boss Roy Hodgson started his football life in our county - **SEE SPORT**

ANIMALS

Dogs 'killed by rat poison'

OFFICIALS have moved to quell fears that pet dogs are being killed by poison at a popular park. Rumours have been sweeping the internet, though the town hall said there was nothing to be concerned about - despite one man revealing to KoS how his dog had to be put down. **PAGE 5**

CAMPAIGN

Kind readers save elderly

ELDERLY people who would usually struggle through the colder months have survived the winter thanks to the generosity of our readers. Thousands were raised by the Surviving Winter campaign led by the Kent Community Foundation and Saga, and supported by Archant KOS Media. **PAGE 12**

SPORT

Teen batsman aiming high

DANIEL Bell-Drummond's to-do list at Kent this season might be short, but that by no means belittles his ambitions. The 18-year-old batsman has firstly firmly set his sights on breaking into Jimmy Adams' squad, and secondly he quite simply wants to hit as many runs as possible. **PAGE 87**

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Wild-animal park shows how we can help protect at-risk species



Alan Davies gets Dark



Kent Weekend



The king of cabaret

Will an Arabian night in the city be to your taste? food and drink p59 Home-owners optimistic of rise in prices - property p59 Pezzer's latest scores its rivals but spurs the homes - driving p75

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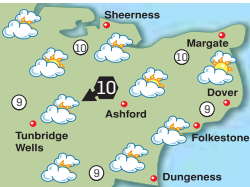
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Weather



TODAY: Cloudy with the chance of patchy light rain. Gentle winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). TONIGHT: Dry with clear spells. Min temp 1-4C (34-39F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.38	6.8	-	-
Margate	00.19	4.8	12.40	4.7
St Mary's	05.18	5.9	17.42	6.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 14C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 15C	Min 8C
Wednesday	Max 15C	Min 8C
Thursday	Max 15C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 16C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 17C	Min 7C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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TRANSPORT

Manifesto to stop west Kent ‘punching below its economic weight’

By Marijke Cox

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TOWN hall chiefs have produced a rail manifesto urging the Government to help stop the “consistent deterioration” of services.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council wants improvements in the area as part of the new rail franchise, which is currently held by Southeastern, but is due for renewal in 2014.

The document was accompanied by a letter to transport minister Theresa Villiers from cabinet member for transportation Cllr Nicolas Heslop and the late Cllr Mark Worrall – who died last week – calling for discussions about the needs of rail users.

Cllr Heslop said: “This comprehensive rail manifesto has been sent to Ms Villiers and delivers the important message that the borough council wishes to work with her officials to ensure the interests of communities across Tonbridge and Malling are fully reflected in the next rail franchise.”

Key points include:

- peak and inter-peak Thameslink services from Maidstone East through Blackfriars and stations beyond, and a true peak service to Cannon Street
- restoration of the direct rail connections between Tonbridge and Gatwick and two-an-hour service during off-peak times
- extension of the services to large population bases in Kent, specifically to Ashford and also to the Medway towns along the Medway Valley Line
- the Tonbridge to Redhill and Gatwick line reintegrated into the Kent franchise
- the new HSI service to St Pancras stops at Snodland station
- a fairer mechanism for fare increase in the next franchise.

In the letter to Ms Villiers, Tonbridge and Malling council said West Kent was “punching below its weight” economically.

“The situation is all the more perverse given how close the area is to London,” wrote Cllr Heslop.

STRAINING:

Tonbridge and Malling council wants to meet with rail chiefs to discuss the problems rail users from the area have encountered and the solutions to what has become a worsening problem

“There are many complex reasons why this is so, but the constant theme has been deep dissatisfaction with the way services operate.

“For this reason, in advance of the tendering of the new franchise from 2014, we are taking the opportunity to submit our rail manifesto for the way we believe the new franchise should be expected to provide for our communities.

“We would be keen to arrange a local rail forum involving the Department for Transport if it would help better explain the Government’s aims for the next franchise and also to allow discussion on what we consider to be the fundamental needs of rail users.”

Improvements to rail services across the county were the focus of a meeting last week at County Hall. As well as extra high-speed services in east Kent, proposed changes to Southeastern’s December, 2012, timetable were announced.

They include the introduction of fast off-peak services between Ramsgate and London Victoria via Chatham and extra capacity to meet growing demand on the high speed service.

‘We cannot escape the fact we are in a time of austerity cuts’

Continued from front page

the force needs to make “brave decisions” on this “sensitive issue”.

He added: “It’s about providing the services for Kent. It’s the right thing to do to review our estate.”

The proposals were announced as police statistics showed only six per cent of contact with the public is through an enquiry office.

Kent Police found 77 per cent of people contact them through electronic media such as the Kent Police website, Facebook and Twitter, and only 17 per cent use the telephone.

A police spokeswoman said: “Kent Police is reducing the number of officers by 500 and staff employees by 1,000. This will mean fewer buildings are required as more police officers work in their local neighbourhoods and

communities. Most of the £53m savings the force has to make comes from the reduction of officers and staff.

“However, it has also been necessary to review other areas of the budget to find some smaller savings.

“An analysis is currently underway to examine how police buildings are used by the public and the force. It has already been established that some police stations or front counters are visited as few as three times in one week in some areas.”

The cuts were discussed at a Kent Police Authority meeting at which authority members agreed for the chief constable to push ahead with the plans.

Ann Barnes, chair of Kent Police Authority, said: “The key to success of any change is absolute transparency and engagement with local people and

that is what will happen. The main consideration will always be to work with communities and to make sure they have the right communication channels.

“We cannot escape the fact we are in a time of austerity cuts and the force has to find £53m worth of savings in four years, so this balanced approach makes perfect sense.

“It’s a very emotive subject but people all over the country are making hard decisions everyday on how to spend their money.

“We are all sharing the pain and although this decision is a hard thing to do it is the right thing to do, so we shouldn’t shy away from it.

“The authority will be keeping a very close eye on the progress of this and its impact.”

Chairman of the Police Federation, Ian Pointon, represents rank and file officers.

He said the police have a “tough” job to do and that the money saved is the equivalent of 18-20 police officers.

He said: “The police are stuck between a rock and a hard place. This is what the face of policing cuts looks like.

“Do we want to cut police officers or close buildings and make fewer cuts to police officers?

“If the public want their local police office to stay open they need to queue up outside their MP’s office. It’s the Government that should be responsible.

“These are the tough calls that the chief constable and police authority have got to make and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) when he or she is elected.”

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EDUCATION

Hundreds of children kicked out of class for sexual attacks, but KCC defends its procedures

By Chris Murphy

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SHOCK national figures shows Kent has the most schoolchildren removed from class for carrying out assaults of a sexual nature.

A Freedom of Information (FoI) request was made to all the education authorities in the UK asking for details of school-aged children that have carried out these sexual attacks.

And the results make for disturbing reading.

It emerged Kent tops the list for the number of offenders, at 705 children that have been expelled or suspended, with Birmingham second on 582, followed by Essex with 451.

In all, almost 15,000 children have been excluded in the last five years for committing sex attacks in schools. Some were as young as four, with more than 1,000 in primary schools.

Not every authority came up with stats to answer the FoI request from The Sun newspaper. It said 148 of 174 local education responded in England and Wales.

Offences included sexual abuse, assault, harassment and lewd behaviour, and include those carried out against both pupils and teachers.

Kent County Council defends the county's

high showing saying comparing an entire county with a city like Birmingham gives a distorted figure.

The authority said it is committed to working with children who display sexualised behaviour.

The council said: "We offer specialist advice in this area to schools and carers. A number of our staff have also undertaken specialist training in this field from AIM or Assessment, Intervention and Moving on, a nationally recognised voluntary agency working in this field.

"In every case the school becomes aware of, they have to assess risk and this only leads to exclusion if it is considered that the risk cannot be managed.

"The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children's Working with Sexually Active Young People provides guidance to schools and other professionals on how to manage and risk assess such incidents of sexualised behaviour.

"It is covered in training for all designated staff in schools, and we urge schools to use the matrix for assessing whether sexualised behaviours cross the threshold for referral to police and CSC."

Project Salus, on behalf of Kent County Council, carries out a number of programmes which tackle behavioural management issues.



SHOCKING: Kent says it has procedures in place

They work with schools, governors, parents and children across Kent to raise the awareness of good practice in anti-bullying work and to support everybody to help reduce the problem.

Its 'Safe School' accreditation has now been running for four years.

Currently 283 Kent schools have achieved or are working towards the accreditation.

Its 'Why Me?' guide for parents offers support in dealing with their children, but also how to approach the school and get appropriate help to resolve the situation, the council said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Dolphin is washed up

THE body of an 8ft long dolphin has been found washed up on Long Beach in Whitstable. The mammal, believed to be a white-beaked dolphin, was spotted by a woman walking her dog and reported to the police just before noon on Thursday. The cause of death is unknown at present. Canterbury City Council arranged for the dolphin to be recovered by experts from the Institute of Zoology so a post-mortem examination could be carried out.

➔ Diamond Jubilee visit

TUNBRIDGE Wells will get a royal visit later this month as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Earl and Countess of Wessex will come to the town on May 31. They will tour the Pantiles, watch youngsters perform at the bandstand and meeting local business people. They will also visit King Charles The Martyr Church, attend a reception for members of the local community, hear a performance from the choir from Kent College, Pembury.

➔ Ex-cop's murder charge

A FORMER Kent Police officer has been charged with murder after his estranged wife was found with multiple stab wounds at her hairdressing salon in Ashford. Ivan Esack, of Rosewood Avenue, Ashford, appeared before magistrates in Canterbury this week. The 38-year-old was charged after the body of 33-year-old Natalie Esack was found at her hairdressing business in High Street, Ashford, on Monday.

POLICE

Senior Tory promises to cut police commissioner pay – if he wins post

A SENIOR Kent County Council member is the third Tory to enter the race to be his party's candidate in the Police and Crime Commissioner poll.

Cabinet member for transport and environment Cllr Bryan Sweetland (pictured) says he would provide a fresh approach to the challenges and opportunities faced by Kent Police.

He also vowed to cut the PCC's expected salary of £85,000.

"It is far too excessive in the current period of austerity and out of proportion with other elected positions in Kent," he said.

The 55-year-old, who joined KCC's cabinet around 18 months ago and has been a county councillor for three years, will go up against Iraq war hero Colonel Tim Collins and Medway councillor and chair of the area's Community Safety Partnership Mike O'Brien in the race to become the Tory candidate for November's first PCC election.

He hinted that if elected it was likely he would stand down from his cabinet position.

Cllr Sweetland would not be drawn into commenting on his Tory competitors, but said there was likely be even more candidates in the coming months.

Other potential competitors for the PCC role include Fergus Wilson, who owns hundreds of properties in Kent; Kenneth Little, an independent candidate who lives near Whitstable; and Harriet Yeo, from Ashford, a councillor seeking

the Labour Party nomination.

Cllr Sweetland – who describes himself as the "most senior" of Kent's politicians to enter the race – said while he is not a member of the existing Kent Police Authority or a retired officer, his background would enable him to bring a business-like approach to Kent Police.

He said if elected there would be no compulsory redundancies of frontline police officers – although the force cannot make officers redundant. They must choose to voluntarily leave or finish their service.

He stressed the need for partnership working with private and public sector organisations.

"It is possible to save millions of pounds by having a sensible 'joined up' public sector approach to tackle crime in problem areas," he said.

"However, most of my time will be spent listening to local people and translating their concerns and aspirations about policing into action."

Cllr Sweetland spent 30 years in the telecommunications industry, working in America, Europe, Bermuda and the UK.

The PCC will take over from Kent Police Authority in November.

They will have the power to hold the force to account, determine policing strategy, set the budget and issue a five-year policing plan.

The salary is £85,000 and will be paid "irrespective of the number of days worked".



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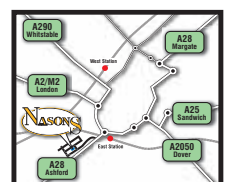
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ENVIRONMENT

Mothers fear banned weedkiller is to blame for spate of birth defects

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

INTENSIVE tests need to be done to establish if there is a connection between a banned weed-killer found in water supplies with a series of tragic birth defects, says a Tory MP.

Mothers in and around Waterdales in Northfleet, have been told there is a possibility their babies were born with part of their bowel protruding from a hole in the stomach because atrazine was possibly in their drinking water.

The company behind it denies this emphatically, saying there is no evidence to back the claim.

But the Tory MP for Gravesham Adam Holloway said: "There is something that has gone wrong here, and we need to find out what it is."

He says a landfill site, now a public area, may be connected, and suggests that too needs investigating.

Atrazine, a herbicide, was banned in the EU, though it's still used in the USA. The ban was decided in 2004, but not enforced until 2007, to allow use of existing stockpiles.

Worries in the area began when it was realised that over 12 years, nine children were delivered suffering from gastroschisis. It normally affects one in 7,000.

Many studies have been carried out in the USA and apparently none proved conclusively that atrazine caused any problems to humans, let alone birth defects.

Southern Water, the company that supplies the area, said it regularly tests its water.

A spokesman said: "Results of this monitoring has shown that levels of atrazine have been well below the 0.1 microgrammes per litre limit set by the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations."

Sonia Dalton said her daughter Mikka spent five weeks in intensive care after being born with the condition in January, 2009, and still requires daily medication.

She said: "Nothing can be done to help those already affected, but if we can help prevent this happening again, we will continue the fight."

"We have been told there are reports saying high levels of atrazine was found near us, but we know no more than that. Things are progressing, but slowly."

Juliet Green, 39, who lives a few doors away from Ms Dalton said her daughter Courtney, 10, suffers complications related to gastroschisis. She was tube fed for much of her life and suffers from internal bleeding which requires regular transfusions.

Her grandson, born to her daughter Natalie Margetson, 22, has also been affected by gastroschisis, which is not hereditary.

Now, in the most recent case, Chantelle Stevens, 23, who lives in the same street, gave birth two weeks ago to Lily who has gastroschisis and remains in intensive care.

Stella Coffee, 38, who lives nearby, discovered during a pre-natal scan that her baby, due in June, also has the condition.

Sonia said: "There are just too many for it all to be a coincidence."

Stuart Gillings is Ms Dalton's lawyer, and he

said: "We know something has happened in this area and are preparing reports and questions we need to ask various organisations. Atrazine is one possibility, but we need to go through every option. This is going to be a long, complex case."

NHS Kent and Medway said: "The public health team is carrying out a thorough investigation to determine if there is a cluster of cases of gastroschisis in the Waterdales area of Northfleet. This involves examining if there are more cases of the particular disease than would normally be expected by comparing the numbers of cases both locally and nationally."

Mr Holloway said: "One of my constituents wrote to me a while back, before he sadly died, saying near to these houses was some sort of dump from years ago. It has to be asked if there is a connection with that. There is no doubt in my mind that there is something in this."

Syngenta, the maker of atrazine, said it recognises the distress of the families, but disputes some reports claiming tests showed dangerous levels of atrazine in the area.

The company said: "In fact, levels detected in the referenced water source supplying the area were well below the regulated level."

The company also pointed out the UK Scientific Committee on Plants found "scientific experts have conducted rigorous studies that have consistently shown that atrazine does not cause birth defects".

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ MP in Murdoch dispute

TORY MP for Folkestone Damian Collins has criticised a key finding in the hacking report which claimed media mogul Rupert Murdoch was "not a fit person" to run a major international business. While Mr Collins, who is on the Commons media select committee, was united with other MPs in criticism towards former executive chairman of News International Les Hinton, former News of the World editor Colin Myler and the paper's ex-head of legal Tom Crone, he did not back the statement about Mr Murdoch's suitability to run a major corporation.

➔ Fight cabbies suspended

TWO taxi drivers caught brawling at a rank outside Sevenoaks rail station have had their licences suspended by the council. Andrew Badger, from Axtaine Road, Orpington, and Mohammed Jabbar from Glyn Davies Close, Dunton Green, were arrested on May 16, 2011. Sevenoaks council suspended Badger's Hackney carriage driver's licence for six months and Jabbar for nine months. Sevenoaks Magistrates' Courts has since upheld the suspensions.

➔ Manslaughter conviction

A JURY has convicted Caleb White, 20, of manslaughter following a stabbing in Maidstone last September. White - who was just 19 at the time of the crime - killed Tom Crittenden, 21, with a single stab wound to the chest during an incident in Cornwall Close. He will be sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on June 15.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Officials try to quell rumours dogs are being poisoned to death in park

A COUNCIL has assured dog owners visiting open spaces that a poisoner is not targeting their pets - despite persistent internet rumours.

The RSPCA's Facebook page for its Maidstone branch had postings from people claiming their animals had become ill after walking in Mote Park.

Some went so far as to say up to 10 dogs had been poisoned to death in the park by someone liberally dropping rat poison.

A message is being distributed on the social networking site Facebook, reading: "Just heard some terrible news, 10 dogs have died this week. Some low life is dropping rat poison at Mote Park."

"My cousin's friend's dog has died so I know this is true."

"By the time they got the dog to the car to take it to the vets it was foaming at the mouth and died. Please avoid Mote Park this weekend x."

The RSPCA started receiving anonymous messages on its Facebook page, so the Maidstone volunteers put up a warning.

An RSPCA spokesman said: "The girl who runs the Facebook page just put up a message saying be careful if you are walking in Mote Park because dogs have been poorly."

"The council then contacted her and said there is no poison in Mote Park and you are scaremongering, so she put the council statement up on the Facebook page."

"We haven't got any names and addresses of

people whose dogs have been poorly, but after she put up this thing from the council, another person got in touch saying 'My dog has been very ill after walking in Mote Park'. I think the council has said there is a rat problem there."

Peter Surtees, director of European supplies at Kimberley Clarke at West Malling, said his four-year-old deerhound Sam died from rat poison, and Mote Park was "number one on the suspect list".

He said: "I had to take him to the emergency vet during the night and sadly we had to make the decision to put him down. I can't believe this has happened - it's very tragic."

Maidstone council said: "We have not received any confirmed reports of dogs and cats being poisoned in Mote Park. No official baiting is taking place in Mote Park."

"The welfare of animals is very important to us and we will be working with the police to find out what is happening and to take necessary action."

And the police said: "We are not investigating anything involving dogs being poisoned anywhere in the Maidstone area, but then we would not always be someone's first port of call if something happened."

"We are aware of this Facebook claim, but as present know no more about it."

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DIED: Sam had to be put down

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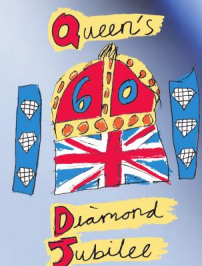
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ROYALTY

Prince Charles flies in to see historic house's restoration works to tackle woodworm threat

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE Prince of Wales made a special visit to Kent this week to learn about a project aimed at saving one of the country's most important historic houses.

Heir to the throne Prince Charles flew in by helicopter to the stunning grounds of Knole in Sevenoaks on Monday, where he met with National Trust chiefs, curator Emma Slocombe, and others involved in the conservation.

The 600-year-old house is undergoing repairs in what is the first phase of a decade-long process to secure its future.

The building – once palace to King Henry VIII and the Archbishops of Canterbury – contains some of the world's rarest and most important collections of furniture, textiles and paintings.

Prince Charles was given a tour of the house, stopping to meet experts and hear about conservation being carried out, including the expertise used to help preserve the upholstered furniture in the Reynolds Room, which contains portraits by 19th century painter Sir John Reynolds.

He took particular interest in the work of house steward Emily Watts and conservation assistant Melinda Hampton, who are responsible for the daily cleaning, checking and treatment on Knole's hundreds of objects.

Ms Watts said: "We keep bags of dust from



Pictures: PROFESSIONAL IMAGES

ROYAL TOUR: Prince Charles was shown around Knole in Sevenoaks and met several members of staff who explained the vital work being carried out

each piece of furniture; it allows us to monitor the cleans. There is as much risk of over-cleaning as under-cleaning due to the damage it can cause. Each piece has its own cycle."

The building, as well as suffering cracked walls and leaking roofs, is also riddled with woodworm.

Insecticide is injected into objects and furniture to treat the problem and the Prince was shown some of the bugs that had come out of a 17th century candlestick holder.

Ms Solcombe presented him with a framed X-ray image of the candlestick holder – showing pest damage and historic repairs, one of a collection to be exhibited at Knole.

During the tour, His Royal Highness, who has a degree in archaeology, met house and collections manager Helen Fawbert who explained upcoming plans to remove panelling in the ballroom and the potential archaeological discoveries it could reveal.

Before arriving at Knole, Prince Charles – as the troops' colonel-in-chief – had visited the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles at Sir John Moore Barracks in Folkestone.

His visit came before the soldiers start a seven-month tour in Afghanistan.

The Prince joined a reception for soldiers and their families before laying a wreath at the battalion's memorial. He also presented medals to soldiers for recognition of their work in Afghanistan.

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News

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ANIMALS

Stevie the Wonder Pup left to die tied up in a plastic bag

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE owner of a former police sniffer dog was stunned to find a blind puppy stuffed inside a tiny plastic bag and left to slowly starve or suffocate to death in an isolated phone box.

Sharon Byrne was left sickened by the cruelty of whoever ditched the helpless pup, which was whimpering in the hope someone with a kind heart would pass by and save it.

As Sharon approached the box with cocker spaniel Wilko, a former police sniffer dog, she became aware her pet had detected something was wrong in the phone box.

Opening the door, she could barely hear the puppy's stifled cries. The small dark brown Staffordshire bull terrier gasped for what little air was left in a green Marks and Spencer bag.

Much longer and the pooch would have died where he lay.

Sharon said the bag was done up tightly and it was a battle to open it.

Sharon said the puppy was unresponsive and cold so she took him home, warmed him up and called a vet, who broke the sad news about the dog's complete lack of sight.

Stevie the Wonder Pup, as she called him, is about seven weeks old and was wearing a black collar which looked new.



FRIENDS: Blind Stevie the Wonder Pup with his rescuer Wilko

He's chocolate brown with a white blaze and two white front paws.

Sharon said she now wears bells on her shoes and has put bells on Wilko's collar so Stevie knows where they are.

She said: "He was very weak when I found him, his eyes were shut and he was almost lifeless. If Wilko hadn't found the bag he would have died."

"It's disgusting that anyone could dump such a vulnerable animal like this and leave it to a slow, lingering death."

Stevie has got his own Facebook page and has toys and food donated by Flyball Relief and food company Fish4Dogs.

The RSPCA now wants to

trace the original owner with a view to a possible cruelty prosecution.

The charity is appealing for help from anyone who knows who dumped the puppy. It was found between 10am-11am on Friday, April 21, in the phone box at the end of Cumberland Drive, Bexleyheath.

RSPCA inspector Ellen Thomas said: "It looks like someone abandoned this poor puppy because he is blind and would have been difficult to sell."

"It is unbelievably cruel – he would have died in that phone box if he had not been found."

Anyone with any information can phone the charity on 0300 123 4999.

PLANNING

Fast action stops work on illegal gypsy site

MAIDSTONE council says it acted quickly to issue a temporary stop notice on a site at Willow Lane, Yalding, to prevent work to establish an unauthorised gypsy site. The town hall's head of planning, Rob Jarman, said: "The temporary stop notice covers all further development and engineering works, including hard surfacing, excavation works, and the stationing of additional caravans and mobile homes."

DROUGHT

Fountains and splash parks stay turned off

BEXLEY Council says it will not open its splash parks in Belvedere and Danson Park for the foreseeable future because of the water restrictions. The fountains at Waterside Gardens, Crayford, will also remain switched off. The splash parks were due to turn on their water features this weekend. Thames Water have said although the April rain has brought some relief, it won't be enough to end the drought.



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News

REHABILITATION

Clarke praise for academy training prisoners for work

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



VISITOR: Kenneth Clarke

CABINET member Kenneth Clarke has visited a new employment training academy that offers "life changing" opportunities for prisoners.

The Secretary of State for Justice, and prisons minister Crispin Blunt, attended the official opening of the Timpson Academy on Monday.

The academy in Goudhurst, will train prisoners in a variety of trades, aiming to boost employment and reduce reoffending.

Prisoners learn the skills used in Timpson shops such as key cutting, shoe and jewellery repair, and photo-processing.

The 10 prisoners selected for the academy will soon be released and Timpson hopes to provide them with jobs in shops across the country.

Lisa, 36, from Wales is serving a 12-year sentence. She said: "I found it difficult speaking to people before the academy. I didn't think anyone would give me a job, I thought

I would be unemployable.

"People gave me the opportunity and I am so grateful.

"This will be a full-time job when I leave, to enter into in the long term. It's a career for me not just a job."

The academy has been running for 13 weeks and is next to Blantyre House prison.

The 10 male and female prisoners working there are from Blantyre, East Sutton Park, and Standford Hill prisons.

Timpson does not hire those convicted for sexual offences or who have mental health problems. The trainees work from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday,

and are paid a prison wage.

One ex-prisoner is now working full-time in a Timpson shop, another works on Saturdays.

There are four other Timpson academies across the country, but this is the first one built outside of prison grounds.

Timpson chairman, John Timpson, said: "Out of 200 prisoners only seven have gone back to prison, 92 per cent are still with us after 12 months."

He said 15 of his shops are managed by ex-prisoners.

Mr Clarke said: "The academy epitomises the kind of thing I would like to see in Britain."

He also talked about pressures on the prison system such as overcrowding and finding the space to provide facilities like the academy.

Blantyre governor Jim Carmichael, said: "If you put prisoners in this environment you can see the confidence because someone's taken a chance on them. They are able to give something back."

■ **More news at www.your-tunbridgewells.co.uk.**

Gerald Lukehurst

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News

CAMPAIGN

Generous readers help keep elderly alive through winter

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



VULNERABLE and elderly people who would usually struggle through the colder months have survived the winter thanks to the generosity of our readers.

Thousands of pounds were raised through Surviving Winter, a campaign led by the Kent Community Foundation (KCF) and Saga, and supported by Archant KOS Media.

The scheme invited well-off households to donate some or all of their £200 winter fuel payment – given tax-free by the Government to every household with a person aged 60 or over – to poorer elderly or vulnerable people.

A total of £15,239 was raised, with £2,450 coming from our readers using the coupon provided in this paper.

Donations helped provide hardship grants for poorer pensioners and fund advice and support groups.

KCF said thank you to this

newspaper and its readers for supporting the drive.

Chief executive Carol Lynch said: "We were delighted we managed to raise more than £15,000 for elderly people who struggle with the cold over the winter through our appeal."

"The campaign was driven by the generosity of older members of our community who felt the winter fuel payment was a luxury they could live without and wanted it to benefit others."

"We worked with our charitable networks throughout Kent and redistributed those generous donations to other older people in real need, both as individual hardship funds and as grants to groups to help their members keep warm and well over the winter."

"Fortunately this winter wasn't as bitter as some we have known in Kent, but we were delighted that our funds made a real difference to so

many older people's lives."

Each year there are more than 1,000 excess winter deaths in Kent and Medway.

Funds raised went towards projects supporting elderly people in real need, with more than £5,000 given as individual hardship grants. Funding went to Age Concern branches, and paying for nurse time and support services to prevent isolation and loneliness.

Almost £2,300 will be used to fund early projects next winter and KCF hopes to launch an educational project about the importance of preparing for the cold and conserving energy.

KCF's Annette Fettes said: "I'd like to thank you all at Archant KOS Media once again for your help in running this appeal."

"You certainly helped raise awareness of the issues facing many older people each winter, and as a result generated donations which made winter more bearable for many older people in real need across the county."

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News

CRIME

Targeting lorry drivers who think they're above the law

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE deadly combination of tiredness and distraction is often to blame for serious traffic accidents.

Add to that mix a multi-tonne heavy goods vehicle and it's even more likely to end in disaster.

But in the past, monitoring lorry drivers has proved difficult, with HGV cabs being so high off the ground police were unable to see inside.

Last year, however, saw Kent Police using an unmarked lorry to allow officers to see what drivers were up to behind the wheel.

And more than 180 drivers found themselves on the wrong side of the law with offences including using hand-held mobile phones, and eating while driving.

In the latest operation of its kind, police took to the road for three days, patrolling the M20 in an unmarked lorry.

A total of 45 offences were dealt with – with fines totalling £2,700 – including using mobile phones, not wearing a seatbelt, and one where the offender was reading a map placed on the steering wheel.

Roads policing unit inspector Paul Sellwood said even in last week's wet and treacherous conditions drivers continued to use their phones.

"We have an awful lot of lorries that move through our county from the ports which means we have more risk of collisions involving HGVs and the consequences are often fatal," he said.



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

GOTCHA: PCs Laura Sloan and Mark Nott

"Car drivers are more aware of getting caught if they are using their mobile or not paying attention. Some lorry drivers think they can get away with it because police can't see them so high up.

"This operation sends out the message that we are clamping down on HGVs, too."

Insp Sellwood added: "All drivers should be warned we constantly police the roads.

"Vehicles are dangerous weapons, especially when drivers are distracted. We will run this operation again, but we also stop drivers every day for these types of offences.

"It's about creating the fear of detection."

Kent Police worked with a local lorry company which loaned the vehicle. Officers looked into drivers' cabs and filmed alleged offences while alerting patrol vehicles to pull offenders over.

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Damp is not always easy to spot but tell-tale signs to look for are a musty smell, stained or peeling wallpaper, bubbling paint, rust marks around nails on skirting boards and mould growth on walls.

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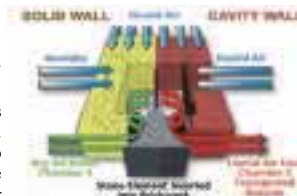
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News

CRIME

Railway metal thefts down, but we pick up a larger bill

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RAILWAY bosses say their campaign against cable theft on the network has seen a decline in the number of raids, but an increase in cost and impact from the thefts.

New figures from Network Rail for the financial year 2011-12 show there were 12 incidents, down from 17 the previous year.

But those thefts cost the industry, and ultimately the taxpayer and passengers, more than £700,000 in the last 12 months, compared to £400,000 the year before.

Route managing director for Kent, Fiona Taylor, said: "Our massive and sustained effort against cable thieves is beginning to have an effect. The number of crimes is down, but the amount of delays to passengers has increased."

"The figures are still unacceptably high and we firmly believe that, without legal reform, fare-paying passengers will continue to suffer thousands of hours of delays to journeys, with the rail industry paying out millions of pounds in compensation when dealing with these crimes."

Metal theft has grown as the economic situation has worsened, and the Government wants to make cash transactions for scrap to be outlawed, making it tougher for criminals to cash in.

Network Rail said it and the rail industry as a whole wants a complete reform of the 1964 Scrap Metal Dealers Act, to help tackle the theft problems.

Substantial sums have been spent in Kent securing sites where electrical cables are exposed which has helped limit theft, and Network Rail has also funded extra British Transport Police officers.

Ms Taylor added: "We are grateful for the public support we receive in reporting suspicious activity – both on the railway and at disreputable scrap dealers."

"It is clear the law needs substantial change in order to take away the easy market for illegal scrap."

And Gary Cooper, head of operations at the Association of Train Operating Companies, said: "Cable theft regularly causes disruption for thousands of passengers and costs the taxpayer millions, so it is good news the Government is cracking down on scrap metal dealing."

"Train companies are working closely with the rest of the industry to tackle the problem, and this is an important step in helping us succeed."

"But further changes to the law now need to be made to create a robust new licensing regime covering all scrapyards, giving police and councils the power to search and investigate them, and to close down any dealers involved in theft."



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News

WILDLIFE

Food supplies at risk if bee numbers continue to drop

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS IT is revealed that the number of bees in Kent has slumped by half in recent years, one organisation has launched its own fightback.

A report from Friends of the Earth (FoE) found the bee population is in freefall. The sting in the tail means that with fewer of them to pollinate crops, there will be less food and failures of whole eco-systems.

And in turn, manual pollination will be required – which will be massively costly.

The green campaigners said farming in Kent and the rest of the South East faces serious risk without urgent Government action to protect the bees.

Saving the bee will not only provide a continuation of current agriculture levels, it will save the taxpayer a fortune, because after all, bees are free.

FoE said bees pollinate



HOME: Bees need extra help

around £137.4 million of crop sales in the region, according to research conducted at the University of Reading. But if the bee died out, it would annually cost the country a staggering £1.8 billion to hand-pollinate crops. That could pay for 60,000 teachers.

The research found Kent has already lost more than half the honey bees in managed hives, and wild honey bee numbers are dropping dramatically.

Solitary bees are declining in more than half the areas they have been studied, and the

bumblebee is extinct in the South East. However, a species of the solitary bee, *Halictus eurgathus*, thought to be extinct here, is being reintroduced to the South Downs.

FoE wants David Cameron to take action on planning towns, change the way we farm and use pesticides, and fund nature experts to ensure vital bee populations are restored.

And at the North Foreland Golf Club in Broadstairs, staff are working to help the bee.

Manager Dan McGrath has launched Operation Pollinator, to increase the number of pollinating insects and bees on the course. He said: "The green-keeping team is proud of the work carried, recently installing new nesting sites for bees."

FoE campaigner Paul De Zylva added: "Bees are responsible for most of our fruit and vegetables, so our diet would suffer."

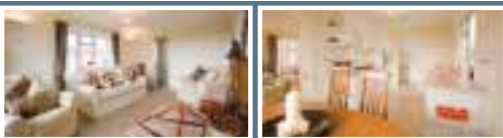
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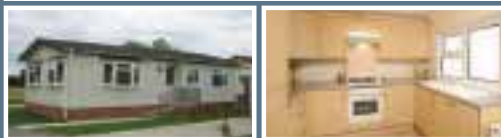
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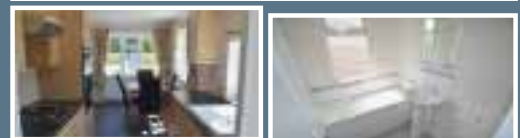
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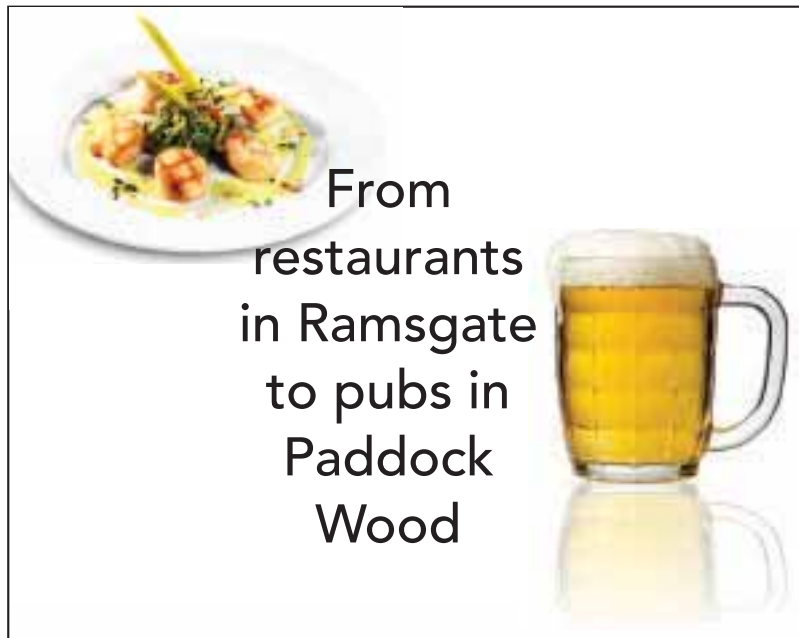


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News

HEALTH

NHS needs blood to be fit for Olympic Games and Jubilee

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MASSIVE 30 per cent increase in blood donations is needed in Kent this year to help cope with the Olympics.

NHS Blood and Transplant said it needs to hit a target of 30 per cent more than its usual stock to cope with an expected slump in donor numbers when the Games is on.

It said in the past, even its most regular donors give it a miss during big national events and celebrations as daily routines are disrupted. This, combined with the high numbers of international visitors with a different native blood mix, may also put high demand on specific blood groups.

The high number of public holidays, sporting events and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations makes forward planning essential to ensure demand can be met.

Active donors are being urged to make an appointment if they are eligible between now

Picture: ADRIAN BROOKS



SAVED: Ian Morgan received more than 90 units of blood during his cancer treatment

and the start of the Olympics, to help build stocks before the major events begin.

Launching the appeal is cancer sufferer Ian Morgan from Tunbridge Wells, who posed with a body painted donor.

He said: "I always thought it was important, if not a civic duty, to donate blood, but I never expected it would be me who needed it. I had three op-

erations, using more than 90 units of blood in total. I would like to urge as many people as possible to help save lives."

Most in demand in Kent is blood type O+ followed by O- and B- but all donors should turn up as soon as they can with many sessions having extended opening times.

Also, those who haven't donated before and may not know their blood type are encouraged to help build stock levels by making an appointment to start donating now.

The service said regular donations are a vital resource to help treat conditions like cancer, long-term illnesses, plus people involved in accidents and those in maternity care.

Male donors can give four times over 12 months with 12 weeks between donations and women are advised to donate three times a year to protect them from developing health problems such as anaemia.

New and existing donors can visit blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 2323 for an appointment.

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News

CRIME

Bookies robber locked up

A 40-year-old man from Gravesend has been jailed for eight years for robbing two bookmakers with an imitation gun.

Brett Scott Mullen, (pictured) of Christianfields, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court, where he pleaded guilty to two offences of robbery and two of possessing an imitation firearm.

Mullen committed the first robbery at Coral Book-

makers in King Street, Gravesend, on December 23, 2011, when he entered pointed the imitation gun, wrapped in a carrier bag, at a member of staff and demanded cash.

He committed a similar offence at the Coral Bookmaker shop in Bexley on December 28 and was arrested in Gravesend the following day.

In total Mullen stole around £1,300.



Detective Constable Richard Dorey said: "This was a terrifying ordeal for the staff and I'm pleased with the swift actions taken to arrest him and bring him to justice."

EUROPE

MEP's budget appeal

KENT Labour MEP Peter Skinner has called for a Euro budget freeze after the European Commission announced plans for a 6.8 per cent increase in the EU's budget for 2013.

He said: "We have made a real terms cut in the European Parliament's budget for 2013 and I want the overall budget frozen. It's time for other EU institutions and the Commission to play their part in finding savings. In these challenging times we need to promote spending on jobs and growth and make savings in other areas."

The budget must be agreed by member states and the European Parliament by the end of the year.

RESCUE

Big day for Red Cross

THE Red Cross is getting set to open its new base for emergency response operations and community services for East Kent.

The opening ceremony on Tuesday at the building in Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, will be attended by Julian Brazier MP and the Lord Mayor of Canterbury. Lady Caroline Ure, long-standing volunteer and former president of the Kent Red Cross, will cut the ribbon.

Bradbury House will be a base for British Red Cross emergency response operations in the area and will also be a focal point for the delivery of health and social care, first aid learning, and other humanitarian services.

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EXHIBITION

From red carpet stars to famine – Brian Aris has photographed it all

Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

It may be easier to compile a list of celebs, royalty, and global hotspots that Kent photographer Brian Aris hasn't snapped, and his fans can enjoy some of his best work at an exhibition in Whitstable.

He is a legend in the world of stills having shot formal portraits of the Queen, visited some of the globe's worst wartorn regions like Sudan and Vietnam, and focused on the starving of Ethiopia.

But few will know his name.

Mr Aris, from Faversham, said: "I have always thought a photographer should be seen and not heard, so I have shied away from doing interviews. I prefer to keep my head down and keep working."

He started with the riots in Northern Ireland in the late 60s, and his pictures went round the world. Then came Princess Anne visiting Sudan, and work with Save the Children Fund in Vietnam and the Middle East. Ethiopia was visited more than once, including with Faversham resident Bob Geldof and the Band Aid Trust.

Mr Aris said: "You say to yourself you will go back to reporting, but it never works out that way."

"I enjoyed my time doing that, but once you depart and get in to that world of celebrity, studio, make-up and hair, it is very hard to then go back.

I do miss it, but it is a different world now.

"When I was doing it, a press card and British passport were respected back then. I am not so sure that's the case now – more of a target if anything."

"I have a great respect for the guys who do it – they are the finest photographers there are. These guys are unsung heroes – they go out there, work quietly and get their pictures published showing the world what is going on, and the public generally don't know who their names."

"And yet they'll know the name of a fashion photographer who spends all day in a studio with a model, where they should take a good picture."

And so it was for Mr Aris who went on to capture on film the world's best-known faces. His catalogue is now a who's who of fame.

David Bowie, The Police, Sting, The Rolling Stones, The Who, Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Blondie, Boy George, Madonna, Annie Lennox, Van Morrison, The Clash and Bob Geldof, have all been at the other end of his lens.

There are record covers for George Michael, Sting, Dire Straits, The Human League, Boomtown Rats, Mike Oldfield, Kenny Rogers, Eurythmics, Pet Shop Boys, Moody Blues, Cliff Richard, Tina Turner, Elton John, The Who and Blondie.

And Mr Aris has taken an interest in his home area with a book on the history of the Whitstable



STARS ON CAMERA:

Brian Aris (bottom) has photographed hundreds of big names, including (l-r) Bromley boy David Bowie; Faversham resident Bob Geldof in Ethiopia; US superstar Madonna; model Twiggy; and the star guests at the wedding of Bob Geldof and Paula Yates, including members of the Boomtown Rats, Midge Ure, Duran Duran, George Michael, Spandau Ballet, David Bowie, and Aled Jones



native oyster. The latest show is based on his exhibition War Zones to the Red Carpet. It features 50 images covering conflict and famine to the red carpet world of celebrity.

He said: "I am looking forward to going to the Hop Farm festival to get shots of Bob Dylan and some of the others on the bill."

The is at the Whitstable Museum and Gallery until June 10.

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News

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EXHIBITION

Downton Abbey inspiration behind castle's exhibit of real life upstairs and downstairs

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LEEDS Castle really is Kent's own Downton Abbey, say the organisers of a new exhibition set to confirm and dispel more than a few myths about life upstairs and downstairs.

During the last year, as castle staff relaxed in front of the TV on Sunday nights, they experienced a rather odd sense of déjà vu.

Being played out in both Downton Abbey, and the remake of the classic Upstairs Downstairs, were stories which mirrored exactly those of Leeds Castle in the early 20th century when Lady Baillie owned the castle.

Staff were so struck by the parallels they have developed an exhibition to show what life was really like on the two floors of the castle.

It is called What the Butler Saw and is now running at the castle near Maidstone highlighting the hidden stories of lives above and below stairs.

Led by heritage manager Nic Fulcher, and drawing on archive records, memoirs and research, and with period costume and artefacts to bring the stories to life, for the first time the stories of the servants will be told alongside those of their masters and mistresses.

'Upstairs' stories include Lady Baillie, who was born Olive Paget in 1899, the daughter of an English peer, Lord Queenborough, and an American heiress, Pauline Whitney.

Olive grew up in fantastic luxury; at 16 she had a cheque book, a chauffeur driven car and an independent life.

But when World War One came, she became a nurse, helping in the convalescent homes established by her father to support wounded officers and soldiers.

Olive married three times: first, to Hon Charles Winn shortly after the war, with whom she had two daughters; and then to Arthur Wilson-Filmer, with whom she bought Leeds Castle in 1926, as a weekend country house, spending £180,000 on the estate, and a further £100,000 on refurbishing the castle. But that marriage also ended in divorce in 1931, when she married Sir Adrian Baillie, a Scottish baronet with political aspirations.

And 'downstairs' there were more than 40 indoor staff before the outbreak of World War Two.

They were led by a butler and a housekeeper alongside maids, governesses, nannies and a Belgian chef. There were a further 40 or so staff employed on the estate, as agricultural workers, gardeners, chauffeurs and grooms.

The garage yard, with 10 garages either side, each accommodating three cars, for not only estate vehicles but the cars of weekend guests, had accommodation for young menservants built above it.

In the castle itself, male and female servants were accommodated in a staff floor behind the battlements of the castle; the housekeeper's rooms were in the middle, preventing any 'goings on'.

On hot summer nights, the maids often slid their mattresses out onto the castle roof to sleep.

Many of the maids came from Eastern Europe and staff were often shared with the London house.

Even in the 1950s, the girls had to be in by 10pm when they had their day off, and the housekeeper instructed the gatekeeper to lock them out if they were late.

What the Butler Saw runs until October 21, daily except July 14. For more information, visit www.leeds-castle.com.



CLASS ACT: Leeds Castle's new exhibit is called What the Butler Saw, and reveals hidden stories of lives above and below stairs when Lady Baillie (left) owned the Kent castle

CRIME

29 snakes worth £20k are stolen from shed

SOME 29 royal python snakes worth £20,000 have been stolen from a shed in Sheerness. The theft happened overnight on April 28 from St Georges Avenue. Det Con Andrew Payne said: "The snakes don't just have a high monetary value, but they have significant sentimental value, too. The conditions in which the snakes should be housed are quite specific and harm could come to them if they are not looked after properly."



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HERITAGE

Twilight showings to give real Spitfire experience

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EVER wondered what a genuine Spitfire sounds and looks like when the massive Merlin engine is fired up at twilight?

Soon it will be easy to find out, as a series of public open days are being held at Biggin Hill, which has taken delivery of a small fleet of the iconic war machines.

It has been 53 years since a Spitfire has been based at the famed World War Two airbase, and now three of them will be back at their spiritual home.

One of the organisers, Robin Brooks said: "We want to hold a series of twilight open evenings so people can come along and sit in the aircraft to see just what it was like during those dark days of the Battle of Britain.

"But we will also fire up the engines so you can clearly see the long blue flames literally spitting out of the exhaust pipes.

"There is nothing like the sound of a Merlin engine up close and personal, and we want to share these aircraft with the public, rather than lock them away in hangers so no-one gets to enjoy them."

The Spitfire Company (Biggin Hill) Ltd is the dream of a Kent man who has a long association with flying Spitfires.

Peter Monk, from Pembury, set up the business at the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar.

He is already known as the owner of a Spitfire Mark 9 called the Kent Spitfire, and named Spirit of Kent. This iconic aircraft has performed at venues throughout the country and remains a firm favourite at many displays.

Now it is joined by a rare Mark IA Spitfire, tagged X4650 KL-A; another Mark 9 Spitfire from Canada, marked MK912, called Borough of Bromley; and a Mark 16 Spitfire, TE184.

All those additional aircraft meant Mr Monk needed to lease a hangar at Biggin Hill.

And as if that's not enough, more Spitfires are scheduled to join the company over the next few months.

Mr Monk said: "With the sad demise of the annual air fair here, the establishment of the heritage hangar will certainly put Biggin Hill back where it belongs on the vintage aviation map of the UK."

The Heritage Hangar is due to be launched in June.

SPIRITUAL HOME: Three Spitfires are to be based in the Heritage Hangar at Biggin Hill Airport, where members of the public will be able to experience the full effect of their engines being started



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News

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FOOD AND DRINK

Italians get a taste of Garden of England as Kent Crisps go on sale in Rome bars

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT Crisps are being exported to the land of la dolce vita, with bars in Rome giving their customers a taste of the Garden of England during the traditional cocktail hour.

It is the first time Kent Crisps have been exported since the award-winning brand was launched a year ago by Quex Foods, based in Birchington.

The company has delivered more than 7,000 packets to leading British-style bars in Rome, including The Albert in the Via del Traforo, and The Lord Litchfield in Via Luca Valerio.

Many bars in the capital follow the tradition of serving

stuzzichini – snacks – to tempt customers during the early-evening aperitivo, when Italians tour the bars, socialise over cocktails and enjoy complimentary finger food before going to dinner.

Anthony Curwen, managing director of Quex Foods, said: "We have already exceeded our sales expectations and this is another first for us."

"Now ex-pats seeking a taste of home as well as Italian citizens exploring British culture can enjoy the unique flavours of the Garden of England."

Hand-cooked and made from potatoes grown in the county, Kent Crisps reflect the tastes and landscapes of the county.

Flavours include oyster and

vinegar; award-winner Ashmore cheese and onion; sea salt and Biddenden cider vinegar; and sea salt.

Kent Crisps are on sale at selected Waitrose stores, farm shops, cafés, delis, pubs, village shops and tourist attractions nationwide.

Sales help to maintain Quex Park, one of Kent's historic estates, and the world renowned Powell-Cotton Museum, plus other attractions.

The company is based at the 250-acre country park complete with 18th century Regency house. The estate has won awards for conservation and is a haven for wildlife.

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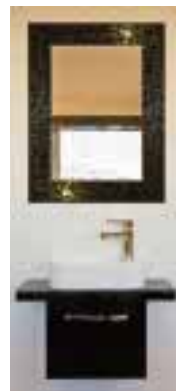
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COUNTRYSIDE

Power lines to be removed from beauty spot

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A LEADING power company is investing millions in burying electricity cables to protect stunning countryside, raising hopes it could spell an end to unsightly overhead wires.

The mile-long electricity lines in Hucking, located in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), are being removed by UK Power Networks and replaced with underground cables.

It forms part of a £6.6m scheme to bury power lines between 2010 and 2015.

The Hucking project, which will cost £352,000, is the latest of seven to be carried out across Kent in a bid to protect nationally important landscapes.

Lamberhurst, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Cobham Park, White Horse Wood Country Park in Detling, Ightham Mote, and Throwley near Faversham, have all seen similar projects, totaling more than £1m.

UK Power Networks' protected areas project officer Shaun Barrell said the Hucking



OUT OF SIGHT: Overhead electricity cables are to be buried to restore the natural beauty of the area

power lines had stood since the 1960s and were visible from public viewpoints.

"It is a popular area of countryside so we are pleased to be playing our role in enhancing the landscape for future generations," he said.

Rural campaigners, who fear huge swathes of countryside being destroyed by pylons and cables, hope it paves the way for more underground cabling.

A controversial debate began last year when Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), raised concerns over plans by the National Grid to build pylon developments – usually measuring 130ft to 180ft high – across rural landscapes.

Although National Grid would not confirm routes, conservationists outlined two; one

running from Rowden, near Croydon through west Kent to Lydd – which was eventually blocked by the Government – and the other from Canterbury to Richborough.

While activists campaigned for underground cabling, the National Grid argued the costs would be considerably more than overhead power lines.

A report by the Infrastructure Planning Committee pub-

““““

We hope to see many more pylons which blight our countryside moving underground in the near future

JAMIE WEIR, PROTECT KENT

lished earlier this year found burying cables would cost from £10m-£24m over a 40-year period compared to £2m-£4m for overhead lines.

But this latest investment by UK Power Networks has given conservationists hope that firms are leaning more towards underground cabling.

Spokesman for Protect Kent Jamie Weir said: "The countryside is something that will be

cherished by future generations and it is therefore critical that we get more of this investment to safeguard our beautiful landscapes.

"The fact UK Power Networks is able to make this undergrounding cost effective shows it is not too expensive to do. We hope to see many more pylons which blight our countryside moving underground in the near future."

Tim Owen, from Kent Downs AONB, said removal of the power lines in Hucking would enable some of the areas to be planted with new trees to provide continuous blocks of woodland in the future.

"This will give a more natural feel to the landscape and allow the woodland habitat to become more continuous and complete," he said.

Woodland Trust site manager for the Hucking estate Clive Steward said the area contained ancient woodland, which has existed for hundreds of years. He said: "The removal of the power lines will enable visitors to appreciate the true beauty and history of these woods."

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ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990** §

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912** §

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTm genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. **London Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283** §

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225** §

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743**

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTm similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787** §

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

46YR old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143** §

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987** §

TARA 5ft blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051** §

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. **Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653** §

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649** §

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643** §

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625** §

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTm tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623** §

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

AMANDA honest pretty single mum, 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male/dad for lots of tic and companionship. pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389737**

LINDA busty blue eyed blonde bombshell, likes holidays, socialising, looking good, WLTm Mr Right to become a perfect trophy wife. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389735**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653** §

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, Auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539** §

DEBBIE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107** §

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103** §

DEBBIE slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101** §

CHARLIE young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051** §

LAURA single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTm older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049** §

TASHA single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tic. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047** §

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614** §

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159** §

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155** §

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117** §

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163** §

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362** §

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135**

YVONNE professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111**

SANDY slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTm loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840** §

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079** §

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057** §

CHRIS outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055** §

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051** §

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081** §

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443** §

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. **ACA. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTm genuine male for flirty dates, text fun and more. **Pls Call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901** §

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DARK haired male, slim, seeks female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391002** §

TONY 45, looking for lady, any age/size/looks for evening fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390992**

HEALTHY happy 49yr old male, seeks attractive, well spoken, N/S Sussex female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390938** §

DISCREET afternoon fun by the seaside, male 39, good looking, seeks female, 18-60 for afternoon slap and tickle. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390936** §

MICK 5ft 8ins, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390928** §

KIND professional male, looking for adult fun, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390908**

EVER hopeful male, 50, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, fun loving, warm hearted, missing that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390259**

YACHT owning male, 52, seeks laughing lady who needs excitement and friendship, Hants/West Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390195**

J O

discreet 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again.

Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899** §

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sack of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

MAVE young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378799** §

ROBERT 31, 6ft, blondish hair, blue eyes, fun loving, single, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389941** §

EASYGOING broadminded passionate male, seeks lady of any age for passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389939**

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

DENTAL practitioner handsome 47, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, seeks slim feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389611**

ENGLISH gent, 60, seeking attractive African female, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390810** §

MATT 43, 5ft 10ins, brown hair/eyes, seeks attractive, compatible female for fun times, drinks and adventures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390804** §

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045**

GOOD looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923** §

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495** §

SINGLE male, 43, likes pubs, clubs, nights in, seeks young lady 25-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390876**

DIVORCED male, 51, N/S, romantic, loving, caring, WLTm small/petite 50plus N/S female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390844**

TURKISH Delight! Tall dark handsome, fun loving male, good company seeks female for fun relationship, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389655** §

DENTAL practitioner, handsome 47, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, thick dark hair, seeks slim, feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389611**

ENGLISH gent, 60, seeking attractive African female, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390810** §

MATT 43, 5ft 10ins, brown hair/eyes, seeks attractive, compatible female for fun times, drinks and adventures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390804** §

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FRENCH researcher 65, seeks older gent 75 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390828**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, brown hair, slim, seeks black male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387274** §

ROBERT bi-curious 49, medium build, seeks similar for discreet friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373547** §

SMALL N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386**

Contact members by phone:

0906 515 7112 0906

KENT REMEMBERED



Jane Austen's letters go on display as new archive centre opens

By Phil Scrivener
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone opened its doors last week, one of five letters that Jane Austen wrote to her niece in Kent was among the archive treasures on show.

Jane Austen's love for Kent stemmed from her family's strong links with the county.

Perhaps her favourite place here was Godmersham Park, near Canterbury, close to the North Downs Way in the Stour Valley, which has changed little since the author's time, 200 years ago.

She often visited her brother Edward's country home and estate there after he inherited it in 1812.

Jane was obviously taken with the surroundings.

On arriving at Godmersham in June, 1808, she wrote: "The country is very beautiful. I saw as much as ever to admire in my yesterday's journey."

Previously, on occasions, Jane had stayed nearby with her parents and sister Cassandra, or her brother Frank.

On one evening, she says: "We dined at Goodnestone and in the evening danced two country dances... we supped there, and walked home at night under the shade of two umbrellas."

Edward and his young wife spent their early married life on the Goodnestone estate, before moving to nearby Godmersham, and Jane was a regular guest. She began writing *Pride and Prejudice* after staying at Goodnestone in 1796. When Edward had established himself at Godmersham, Jane also visited nearby Chilham.

She dined there in 1813, remarking: "As I must leave off



POPULAR: Jane Austen's letter is on display in the new Kent History and Library Centre

being young, I am put on the sofa near the fire and can drink as much wine as I like."

At this time, Jane also visited the then new Canterbury prison with her brother Edward.

She frequently visited the cathedral city to shop, pay morning calls and possibly even went there to dance.

When not visiting Kent, Jane would still write at length from her home in Hampshire to her niece, Fanny Knight, Edward's daughter, who was living at Godmersham Park.

Five of these personal letters are held by the Kent History and Library Centre. They provide a fascinating insight into Jane's thinking and attitudes towards young love.

As her relationship with her niece was so close, Jane offers Fanny guidance about her feelings for her admirers.

In the first two letters, written in 1814, Jane initially tells Fanny: "Your mistake has been one that thousands of women fall into. He was the first young man who attached himself to you. That was the charm and most powerful it is."

However, later on, Jane is

adamant that Fanny must give up the man.

"Anything is to be preferred or endured rather than marrying without affection; and, if his deficiencies of manner strike you more than all his good qualities, if you continue to think strongly of them, give him up at once," she says, referring to John Pemberton Plumtre, of Fredville.

Jane's writing is neat, precise and fills the letter pages. She signs herself 'Yours most affectionately J. Austen,' and includes the address before folding the letter for posting.

Fanny Knight later married Sir Edward Knatchbull, and the letters she held were part of the Knatchbull family archive passed on to Kent County Council for safe keeping 50 years ago.

Jane would dine at the Bull and George, in Dartford, where she describes how her writing and dressing boxes were packed off in another carriage by mistake, and were heading for the West Indies. Fortunately, they were quickly retrieved.

In east Kent, Jane got to know other notable properties including Eastwell Park, near Charing, and Sandling, near Hythe.

Her family connections had also taken her into west Kent. At the age of 12, she had visited The Red House in Sevenoaks, where Francis Austen, her father's elderly uncle, was living.

He paid for Jane's father George to be educated at Tonbridge Grammar School, where he later taught.

You can take a guided walk around Tonbridge to visit other places in the town with Austen family links. Borrow the audio guide from Tonbridge library, or visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.co.uk.

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OPINION

Give the unemployed a chance

Alan Jefferies says it's time for a change in thinking by both employers and job seekers when it comes to the benefits of offering unpaid work

MANY people seem to think job seekers are lazy scroungers, sponging off the government.

However the reality of trying to carve out a career in a tough job market is more difficult than many appreciate.

Our company has had a few problems where we have tried to help the unemployed.

The Coalition's commitment to getting people into work is admirable, but is this unpaid work scheme the right way to do it?

Clearly the unemployed don't seem to be responding.

Similar schemes have not worked in other countries, and there is evidence that coercing people into unpaid training or work masks rather than solves the unemployment crisis.

So why would we do it then? Because we think we should, and there is not much else being offered.

But are employers abusing the system? Clearly some are

offering no training and getting manpower on the cheap.

My company is now reviewing the money we are investing in this scheme.

This is because of the waste in interviewing potential staff/trainees who don't give the training any chance.

They come with a view that we are getting them on the cheap or the training has no value to them. Too many bail out before they understand what we are doing as a business and what we are offering.

Many want an instant well-paid job but don't have the skills to function at the most basic levels.

For example, street English may be acceptable in the pub, but not on the telephone to our customers.

Some younger trainees are too busy telling each other about their life histories, or trying to prove they don't need a job, whereas older trainees can

believe they have already learned about it all at the 'university of life'.

They fail to understand that what is being offered is a new start with a future.

No doubt most unemployed really do want to work but far too many think that being on the dole is their life, and what's the point of learning something new?

Maybe the way benefits are offered need to be amended; it shouldn't be a way of life but a system to help those in need. It should not just go through the motions to meet pointless targets, but actually help people to get life-changing work.

Far too often we have trainees who find their training with us is misinterpreted by an official body as real work and this benefit is halted or that benefit is not paid. We then lose the trainee while this is being sorted out.

It's not fair on us because we



6699

Many want an instant well-paid job but don't have the skills

lose the time we are investing and it's not fair on the unemployed trainee.

OK, so what do we offer?

The minimum anyone who completes our training will get is a letter of reference, experience of the call centre industry, an introduction to marketing, and – most importantly – a methodology example of how to sell themselves to win over future employers.

The best they can expect is a job with a future and an opportunity to progress as we progress. A job with value, a job we both invested in.

We know great people are out there who want jobs, but why is it proving to be so difficult to find them?

So, we operate unemployed training – but should we? Yes we should, everyone needs a chance.

■ Alan J. Jefferies is a senior partner at Kettles.com, based in Strood.

KOS COMMENT

The public face of cuts to the policing budget

OVER the past couple of years we've all heard about deep cuts to public services, but up until now, those made to the police force – while hitting staff and officers hard – have gone relatively unnoticed to the public eye.

But as pointed out by the chairman of the Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon, these latest cuts involving the potential closure of police stations and counters will show what we've all been worrying about.

While some police counters only see a few people a day, to take them away will remove a point of contact in a trauma.

Not everyone is as clued up on social networking and multi-media as others, especially the elderly. For some people, removing this face-to-face facility is the same as cutting a frontline service.

Give Hodgson a break

IT didn't take long after Roy Hodgson was even suggested as the new England manager for some of the press to turn on him. But Hodgson, who started his career in Kent, needs the fans to be behind him.

So give him a break, otherwise we'll have no-one to blame but ourselves if his team are humiliated at the Euros.

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BBC at a loss without Kaddy

I HAD noticed we had been seeing less of Miss Kaddy Lee-Preston on our screens recently, and I no longer watch Inside Out now that it has another presenter.

But I was still astonished to read in your paper that she had left the BBC.

How sad, she was Scene South East's (or whatever it is now called) greatest asset.

Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Folkestone

All aboard this PC gravy train

I'M ALL in favour of elected and accountable officials, and a police commissioner appears a good start.

However, what about costs; his/her salary of £80,000 is only a start. They'll need a staff of how many – obviously – and

a suite of offices, no doubt.

And so off we go on another gravy train.

Add in the costs of those people made redundant, (before they reapply for their new positions in the newly constituted organisation) and we're looking at £5 million a year. There will be redundancies won't there?

Not yet another layer of administration, surely?

Edward Baker, Tunbridge Wells

We must save craftsmanship

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter's article (Opinion, April 29) talks about the deal between business and government, and the necessity to cut red tape where it is impeding progress.

Here is a suggestion...

For more than 45 years I have lived in and renovated a number of listed family houses in the county, in four local

authority areas. It is a passion of mine to bring rundown historic buildings back to life.

With sadness I have seen the decline in third/fourth generation builders prepared to train craftsman apprentices.

This seems to be due to unwillingness to put themselves at risk from the 'rights' of new employees, and from the increased oversight of planning authorities and building control.

Kent has more listed buildings than any other county in the UK.

Can Cllr Carter convene a meeting open to any associated with this important local grassroots industry to establish where there may be impediments to growth and the steps that may be taken to alleviate those impediments.

David Northcroft, Ashford

Waste of cash – and energy

I READ with interest and anti-

cipation your article (April 22) regarding AmicusHorizon and Swale Heating attempting to reduce energy consumption at Rushden.

Whilst energy saving is important, unfortunately the economics of the scheme make no financial sense.

To spend an average of £38,000 per property to possibly save £500 per year is on a scale similar to Green Party windmills.

One has to accept that fuel bills will rise in future, but the scheme will never pay for itself by a huge margin.

Surely a better investment could have been made?

This expenditure follows typical public sector financial rigour, a major reason why the country is in such a mess.

John Hardy, Mersham

Go before it's too late, David

I SEE the latest rumour going around is that Prime Minister

David Cameron is thinking of defecting to the Lib Dems.

I surely hope this is true, because he is nothing like the kind of Conservative that I voted for.

Cameron and his kind are destroying the Conservatives and unless he changes, or they change him, and keeps the promises he made at the last election there is no doubt we will be back to another dose of the other awful crowd.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Rev shows a lack of faith

I WAS disturbed to read in your edition of April 21 of a Kent clergyman (of all people) passing judgment on Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian man charged with the murder of 77 young people.

While my heart goes out to Rev Kirby's Norwegian family and, indeed, to the loved ones

of all those who died, and I would not for one moment condone what Mr Breivik did, I do not find it appropriate for an Englishman, far less a clergyman, to condemn him.

Since the murders last July, the Norwegian people have shown great restraint and maintained a sense of equilibrium in endeavouring to come to terms with what happened.

This is a reaction often witnessed in other continental European countries when facing an incomprehensible crime (such as in Belgium, with the crimes of Mark Dutroux).

Sadly, in Britain, even long before John Major's short-sighted pronouncement about understanding and condemnation, we have been all too eager to condemn people.



TALE: Our report on the story

It is true that Breivik has admitted to the murders, but vilification of him will not bring those young people back and it is for Norwegian society to decide how to deal with him.

I am saddened to think that Rev Kirby does not even hope for a change of heart and the ultimate redemption his church offers all sinners.

I am no church-goer, but I was brought up in the Anglican faith. Even today, when I hear or read of such lynch-mob pronouncements, I am reminded of so many edicts from the Bible ("Let him who is without sin cast the first stone"; "If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive").

I urge Rev Kirby to reconsider his position and to use his training to good end in supporting his wife's family's needs in this dark hour, rather than passing judgments that he is not qualified to make.

Janet Berridge, Canterbury

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Taking care that mum's pension is used wisely

Q MY MOTHER lives in a residential care home, and because of her complex needs she is now fully funded. Is she entitled to retain her full state pension?

A ACCORDING to the charity Age UK, your mother's right to a state pension is not affected by the fact that she now lives in a care home.

However, as you might expect, if the local authority helps with her care home fees, then when the amount of assistance is calculated her pension is taken into account along with any other income she might have.

Savings and any other capital are also taken into account in deciding whether any help is due and if so, then how much.

So, although your mother's pension is not reduced, some of it might be expected to be paid towards the fees, which has the same result of reducing her net spendable income.

On the other hand, so-called 'fully funded' care is the expression used when someone's main reason for being in a care home is because of a health condition.

In these circumstances, the NHS is responsible for the care home fees, paid through the local primary care trust, and Age UK advises that if your mother is eligible for NHS continuing health-care, then this should have no effect on her state pension.

Q MY WIFE and I invest £20 a month into unit trusts for each of our two grandchildren, and we have been doing this for some years.

Our daughter and her husband are not aware of this. We planned to hand over the investment to each child at 18.

A friend has now warned that if we die before then, the units will count towards our estate and 40pc could be taken in inheritance tax. Is this true? If so, what can we do about it?

A IF YOUR daughter has no idea that the units exist, then I imagine you and your wife have been investing in your own names.

If so, your friend is right. There would be nothing to show that these units are not part of your own savings, and subject to inheritance tax along with everything else that you own.

Of course, a lot depends on the size of your estate, and there are exemptions.

For example, no tax is charged on bequests from one spouse to the other.

But after exemptions and allowances have been used up, anything you leave above £325,000 is indeed taxed at 40pc.

My advice is to contact the unit trust company. It probably has a scheme for setting units aside as a gift that would fall within your annual gifts exemption

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



of £3,000. This would take the units out of your estate and beyond the reach of the taxman.

Q I BUY and sell pop memorabilia on eBay as a hobby. I started when I sold my collection of vinyl records, and now I deal in autographs, programmes, and similar souvenirs.

Mostly I plough the money back into buying anything that looks like a bargain.

Can you confirm that I do not need to declare this for tax, please?

A IT SEEMS to me that you have crossed the line from pursuing a hobby and have become a trader, which means you could be liable for income tax.

Broadly speaking, if you sell anything that you have owned for some time, and you did not buy it in the first place to make a profit, then the taxman is not interested.

This is exactly what you did with your old records.

But you buy items now if they are a bargain, which suggests you hope to sell them at a profit.

You also say that you 'deal' in memorabilia, and the tax inspector will take this to mean you are a trader.

The bad news is that HM Revenue & Customs is investigating dealers who appear regularly on sites such as eBay.

The good news is that you can escape the worst penalties if you contact the taxman voluntarily by June 14.

After this, HMRC will be tracking down traders and the usual penalties and interest will apply.

Q I HAVE received a demand for arrears of tax from 2007-08 and I need to check this.

How much would I have been allowed to earn before paying tax in that year?

A THE income tax personal allowance for that year was £5,225.

Tax then started at 10pc on the next £2,230 of your income, before rising to the basic 22pc rate.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

First-time buyer basics make for a happy home

ADAM AIKEN offers a few pointers that will make the idea of buying your first home not such a daunting one...

BUYING your first home is likely to be one of the biggest steps you will ever take.

Perhaps it is not quite as life-changing as getting married or becoming a parent, but it's still up there as a major event.

As such, it can be quite daunting.

For many people, owning a home is something that only 'older people' do, and the realisation that it is time for the next generation to step on to the property ladder can be a real coming-of-age moment.

So it is important to take your time when you go through the process. It may be an exciting period of your life, but make sure you do not rush it.

How much can you borrow?

Before you start house-hunting, find out how much you can afford to borrow.

"It is important to think about your current monthly outgoings – knowing you can meet your payments every month makes having a mortgage far less stressful," said Chris Smith, of Yorkshire Building Society.

Jayne Walters, a spokesman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "If you are looking to buy your first home, you need to have saved a good-sized deposit to get a mortgage.

"Although products with small deposits are available, as are schemes to help first-time buyers and other borrowers buy properties, the best rates will be found with larger deposits.

"All lenders have different criteria, so shopping around or using a broker can help you work out the most suitable mortgage."

A mortgage lender will look at your budget to gauge what you can afford to borrow. In order to ensure you don't find yourself committed to repayments you cannot meet, you may be taken through an affordability check that will look at your salary and monthly outgoings.

It is important to tell the truth at this stage. An affordability test is to help you as much as the lender, because if you end up unable to afford your mortgage repayments, you will risk seeing your home repossessed.

Sometimes a lender will give an 'agreement in principle' – an indication of what you could borrow. This will help guide you towards properties in the appropriate price bracket and reduce the risk of being disappointed further down the line.

Check out the neighbourhood

As well as the financial side of things, do some research into where you would like to live.

SHOPPING AROUND FOR BEST DEALS

THE days of 100 per cent mortgages have long gone, and millions of people have found it harder to get on the housing ladder in recent years – even as mortgage rates have hit historic lows.

Borrowers who want to secure the best rates now need to have sizeable deposits to put down.

The best rates are reserved for people who can put down deposits of 25pc or more. This gives them access to 75pc loan-to-value deals – in other words, mortgages that advance no more than 75pc of a property's value.

Of course, this is far from realistic for many people, but it is nevertheless worth saving as much as you can.

"It's an uphill battle, but there are some good rates out there," said Mr Ossei, at Uswitch.

"Some providers, such as Nationwide with its Save to Buy accounts, even bundle together a savings account with a competitive interest rate and a mortgage for first-time buyers.

"What's vital is that first-time buyers make their money work as hard as possible by shopping around for the best savings rate available."

Lending to first-time buyers seems to be on the increase, partly thanks to initiatives such as a stamp-duty holiday and the Government-backed NewBuy scheme.

The most recent statistics from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which relate to market activity in February, show that more than 14,000 loans worth a total of £1.7



billion were taken out by first-time buyers during the month.

That represented a monthly rise of eight per cent in the number of new mortgages and a six per cent rise in overall value.

More significantly, the figures were up by 18 and 21 per cent on an annual basis.

Mike Cook, head of mortgages at the Post Office, said: "First-time buyers are the life blood of the property market and challenging stories about first-time buyers and wider economic issues have not dampened aspirations to get on the housing ladder.

"It is also interesting to see that despite the resurgence of 10 per cent deposit mortgages recently the average first-time buyer is aiming for the cheaper rates available with 15 or 20 per cent deposits, even if it takes that bit longer to save."

"If you're moving to an area you don't already know very well, take the time to visit and research the surroundings thoroughly," said Mr Smith, at the Yorkshire.

When you have found an area or a property that you like, make a few return visits at different times of the day and week. You may discover that the nice quiet pub at the end of the road becomes a rowdy nightspot on Saturday, for example.

Research by HSBC has found that many first-time buyers are ignoring some of the practicalities of owning homes.

Although things such as a proper-

ty's location and local amenities were often taken into account, the bank found that issues including plans for further development in the area, the condition of nearby properties, and signs of subsidence were often overlooked.

These are all things that can affect the future value of your new home, and Peter Dockar, head of mortgages at HSBC, warned against naivety.

"It is important that first-time buyers consider more than just their immediate desires when looking for their first homes, otherwise they could well be in for a financial headache further down the line," he said.

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'Spend this money to help rescue our struggling towns'

EXCLUSIVE by Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A TOTAL of £300,000 is available to help rejuvenate Folkestone and Hythe town centres – but the money is going to waste, according to campaigners in the area.

Members of the local Labour Party are calling on Shepway District Council and Hythe Town Council to act quickly and use the cash to help businesses facing closure.

A recent study of Hythe town centre by Business Week revealed that many traders feared they would no longer be in business by the end of the year.

Currently £100,000 of Government cash from the High Street Innovation Fund is available for Shepway as a whole, and a further £200,000 is available under a Section 106 planning agreement relating to the new Sainsbury's store in Hythe – a development that many say has made life even tougher for high-street retailers. This money has been earmarked for town-centre improvements.

Matthew Hillyer, of Hythe Labour Party, is calling for action after talking to traders.

He said: "From my understanding, the £100,000 has arrived with a set of guidelines but without any specific contractual terms and conditions, or as yet any committee to process

and evaluate applications. Is this fund just for empty shops, or can struggling existing shop-owners apply? What are the targets and how will it be distributed? Will a specific amount be used to provide new jobs?

"A sum of £200,000 was made available for town-centre improvements by Sainsbury's in 2009, yet as of today there is only one accepted application for some of this money – £5,000 for a new town board.

"Why have the businesses and shoppers not been consulted on how this money should be invested? Why has it remained largely untouched for close to three years?

"I am astounded that a staggering 94 per cent of traders we surveyed said they had never been consulted on how it should be spent, while others told us they did not know the money even existed."

Shepway District Council said this week that it was looking at ways to spend the £100,000 effectively, pledging it would be used to help revitalise shopping facilities.

"We know that empty shops can spoil the attractiveness of a town and any help we can get to tackle this is very welcome," said Alan Clifton-Holt, cabinet member for the economy.

He said it was essential the money was put to the best possible use and the council's first step would be to draw up a plan to target spending.

**SPEND IT!**

Business Week has highlighted the plight of many retailers in Hythe high street... Shepway District and Hythe Town councils are now being urged to use £300,000 available for improvement

He said: "This could include supporting business rate discounts for new start-up businesses that take on empty properties, or working with landlords to encourage them to also contribute to a business rate discount for new occupiers.

"How we use the money needs careful planning. We will be drawing together people from across the council as well as partners to ensure that it's put to the best possible use."

The High Street Innovation Fund is one of a packet of measures announced by MP Grant Shapps in response to the High Street Review from Government retail guru Mary Portas.

Shepway council is one of 100 authorities across the country to receive funding. It agreed that Section 106 money was part of the Sainsbury's planning agreement in Hythe but said that as a legal agreement it was highly specific.

Shepway council's share of the money (£170,000) must be spent on "improvements to the public realm", while £30,000 allocated to Hythe Town Council is earmarked for activities and promotion.

A council spokeswoman said that several applications had already been processed.

RETAIL

Fashion-conscious shoppers boost designer outlet's sales and footfall

McARTHURGLEN'S Ashford Designer Outlet has reported year-on-year increases in sales of 16.3 per cent and footfall of 21.8 per cent for the Easter weekend.

Sales rose by 75.5 per cent compared with the same four-day period last year as shoppers sought power pastels, florals and vintage paisley prints with savings of up to 60 per cent from designer brands such as Jaeger, Ted Baker, Kurt Geiger and Superdry.

Accessories sales also proved particularly strong, showing an 88 per cent increase compared with the first quarter last year.

David Madison, centre manager at McArthurGlen Ashford, said: "With a leading offer of more than 80 designer and high-street brands, we are in a strong

position to capitalise on the growing number of shoppers seeking the best fashion for less.

"Consumers today are looking to invest their money in top-quality products, and the breadth of our fashion offering from Ted Baker and Calvin Klein, to Fat Face and Superdry, provides them with premium fashion for up to 60 per cent less."

Jaye Thompson, fashion expert, said: "In this challenging economic moment, it's not that people have stopped buying fashion, it's just that they're asking more from the fashion they're buying.

"This is all part of the trend for 'investment dressing' – choosing and wearing fashion pieces that offer longevity and value for money."



EASTER CRACKER: McArthurGlen in Ashford saw sales rise

TRANSPORT

Ferry company doubles service

DFDS Seaways and LD Lines have launched a second vessel to sail on its Dover-Calais route.

The new vessel, named as the Deal Seaways, will bring the total number of daily sailings out of Dover to Calais to 10.

The second vessel has been chartered from Brittany Ferries and was known as the Barfleur before being renamed ahead of the launch.

Chris Newey, passenger director for the English Channel at DFDS Seaways, said: "We have been really pleased with the uptake of the new route between Dover-Calais and are delighted to be able to respond to demand with the launch of the second vessel, therefore doubling the number of crossings.

"We're confident our customers will benefit from the flexibility of sailing times, as well as still having the option to travel to Dunkirk."

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Business Week

For more business news go to businessforkent.co.uk

TRANSPORT

Continental train link sees rise in popularity

EUROSTAR, the high-speed rail service between the UK and mainland Europe, has reported a positive start to the year, with continued growth in sales revenues and passenger numbers.

In the first quarter, sales revenues rose by 7 per cent from £197 million to £211 million.

Passenger numbers also saw an increase to 2.24m in Q1 from 2.15m in the same period last year.

The growth over the last three months has been driven by an increase in leisure travel, with business travel in the first quarter of the year remaining broadly flat compared with 2011.

Nicolas Petrovic, chief executive of Eurostar, said: "The year got off to a strong start, with sales revenues and passenger numbers on the up."

"Our core destinations continue to be a big draw for passengers, but we have also seen particularly good take-up of our Amsterdam fares as passengers are increasingly keen to try out new leisure destinations by high-speed rail."

Looking ahead, London is gearing up for one of its busiest summers as travellers flock to London to enjoy a range of attractions.

The combination of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the London 2012 Games and Festival will ensure the capital has much to offer sports and arts enthusiasts alike.

As a sponsor of the London 2012 Games, Eurostar says that it will be playing a key role in bringing spectators to London and in helping to make the Games a truly international celebration.

Petrovic said: "We are gearing up for an exciting summer as the nation counts down to the London 2012 celebrations."

"Bookings for the June bank-holiday weekend are looking strong, with thousands of visitors coming to London to enjoy the pageantry of the Queen's Jubilee."

"There is no doubt that London is set to have one of its most memorable years on record and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming visitors from around the world to share in the experience."

International defence contractor welcomes MP for premises tour

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MP Damian Green paid a visit to one of the county's leading defence-contractor companies, which exports its goods across the world.

Peli Hardigg, which is based in Ashford, make cases for hardware including bombs, guns, aircraft components and satellite dishes for the military.

Customers include the British Army, the US Marines, the French army and the Saudi Arabian air force.

The company, which has an annual turnover of more than £300 million, is American-owned and moved much of its European manufacturing to Ashford 18 months ago.

"The workforce is more flexible and transport links are excellent," said managing director Mark Heydon.

Among the contracts for Peli Hardigg are containers for canopies and other components for Saudi Arabia as part of a deal that saw the Gulf state buy the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, weapons cases for the British Army's SA 80 assault rifle, protective carriers for the Paveway Four guided bomb and containers for satellite uplinks for the US Marines.

Foam packaging to protect

the equipment is also made at the Ashford plant.

"You can push one of our cases out of the back of an aircraft attached to a parachute and it'll arrive on the ground undamaged and ready for use," said sales manager Maurice Morsia.

"For troops on the ground, that is obviously vital. We can truthfully say that for our business mission failure is not an option."

Some 70 per cent of the company's overall product is exported, with France, Germany and Sweden the major markets.

As well as components for the military, the cases and containers are also bought by the emergency services.

A range of waterproof notebooks – issued to soldiers in the field – is also one of Peli Hardigg's products, as are cases for 24-carat-gold-plated spanners, used by armourers because they eliminate potentially dangerous static electricity.

Green said: "It is great to see companies such as Peli Hardigg in Ashford – not just competing successfully domestically but on a world stage."

ON TOUR: Peli Hardigg managing director Mark Heydon, left, shows MP Damian Green some of the equipment

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



INTERNET

Workshops help small firms to get on the web

ADVICE on setting up a business presence on the web was given by experts from Google who visited the county setting up workshops.

Folkestone and Thanet were the venues for small companies to learn how best to establish a profile online.

Demand was such for places at Folkestone that a third day was added to the original two.

Luke Smith, of Google, organised the sessions.

"Around 50 per cent of businesses are not online at all, so we are helping to get those who want to establish a web presence."

Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins brought the experts to his constituency.

"I met Google in London and thought a visit to Folkestone would really benefit local companies."

"The first two days were immediately booked up, so we added a third, which shows the level of enthusiasm in the town."

"In all, 70 appointments were made and there were other interested people who dropped in on the day."

Community should take credit for energy award, says winner

VATTENFALL has received industry recognition, with Thanet Offshore Wind Farm winning a top energy prize.

The 100-turbine scheme won the Offshore Renewables Award at the Offshore Achievement Awards – the first time a renewable energy award has been given by the organiser, the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE).

Company spokesman Ole Bigum Nielsen said: "Vattenfall is honoured to have received this prestigious award on behalf of everyone who helped build the wind farm."

"We think that the people of Thanet should take much of the credit for this award as Vattenfall could not have done it without the support and efforts of local people, communities and businesses."

"We also think it reflects well on the hard work and engineering excellence of the British workforce that helped build the wind farm in a little over two years."

The 300MW Thanet Offshore Wind Farm was until recently the largest operating offshore wind farm in the world. It started generating power in June 2010 and is controlled from its operations and maintenance base in Ramsgate.

More than 1,000 British workers helped build the wind farm over a two-year period and the wind farm now employs 20 locally-based technicians.

It has been designed to generate clean, green power for the next 20 to 25 years, producing the equivalent annual electricity demand of 200,000 UK households.

The Offshore Achievement Awards have a 25-year history of celebrating outstanding success in the UK oil and gas industry. The Offshore Renewables Award recognises technical excellence in an offshore marine renewables project. It also recognises outstanding design, significant innovation, unusual complexity or unusual scale.

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Training, courses and careers

You could be a gym instructor

ANYONE whose dream is to be a gym instructor could qualify for a change in career in just four weeks.

That's thanks to a new training course being run through Medway Adult and Community Learning Service.

The course – Level 2 in Fitness Instructing – runs from Monday, August 6, to Friday, August 24, from 9.30am-4.30pm at Medway Park.

Officials say the course is run by experienced and supportive tutors, and that learners who gain the qualification will be able to work as gym instructors once they have completed the course.

The training course is an internationally recognised certification through Active IQ.

A taster day for anyone who is interested in fitness and personal training careers is being held at Rainham Girls School in Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, at 10am on Saturday, May 12.

For more details about the event or to book a consultation, you can telephone Dan Mace on 01634 338412 or email him at dan.mace@medway.gov.uk

To enrol on the four-week training course phone 01634 338412 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/adultlearning.

Open days to help you pick a course

BROMLEY College is holding two open events offering opportunities to have a look around the college, see the facilities, and find out more about the range of courses on offer.

The event at the Orpington campus is on Wednesday, May 9, 5.30-7.30pm, and the Bromley Campus open event is on Thursday, May 17, from 5.30-7.30pm.

A spokesman said: "With a range of vocational, apprenticeship, A-level, higher education and professional courses they're sure to have something for you whether you've just left school, or you're changing careers.

"The college can help you find the right qualification if you're looking for promotion, and help you choose a course that will fit into your life if you're coming back to study."

The open events offer the chance to have a tour of the campus; meet tutors and students; find out more about the range of courses; and get careers advice from the college's guidance team.

There are different courses at each campus, and you can call 020 8295 7000 or visit www.bromley.ac.uk for more information about the study location of the course you're interested in.

New courses for gold standard electricians

A BRAND new gold standard electrical installation apprenticeship is due to start for trainees in September.

It is being run by Thanet College, in partnership with training provider JTL and Kent County Council.

This is the first time apprenticeships like this have been offered in Thanet, with apprentices getting the chance to train in the college's new electrical workshop, while gaining skills for the future and working in a real job.

Organisers say the new programme is highly effective for employers as, for the first time, they can take on electrical apprentices that are trained locally. The college

is also launching an electric pre-apprenticeship course, which aims to give young people a head start in the job market, and it's free for anyone aged 16-18 years old.

Mark Syrett, JTL's regional manager for the South East, said: "All the staff at Thanet College, and my team and I, are looking forward to working with new employers to get the September intake started into the industry. There's a lot going on in Kent at the moment, making this a really exciting time for us."

Thanet College head of technology Stewart Haywood added: "We're really excited to be able to offer these new courses, and hope to be able to help a lot of young people make their first steps towards promising careers in electrical and building services engineering."

College principal Graham Razey said: "This important new initiative will mean that, for the first time, employers will be able to take on locally trained electrical apprentices with the right skills to contribute to the local economy.

"As a college we are committed to putting practical skills on a level playing field with academic prowess and our new gold standard electrical installation apprenticeship is an important step forward in this direction.

"Thanet College has made substantial investment in facilities and these students will be among the first to benefit."

The partnership aims to help young people to get back on their feet, and make a difference to the building services engineering sector. Latest figures show in Thanet alone, there are 1,585

18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers allowance, with 14.8 per cent of all under 25s in Thanet currently looking for work.

Wayne Gough, the employment programme manager for Kent County Council praised the new programme.

He said: "Apprenticeships are an excellent way for young people to enter the world of work, whilst at the same time developing the skills that employers are looking for.

"Kent County Council are keen to help local businesses to recruit young people, and have recently launched a £2 million grant fund aimed at reducing costs for employers offering apprenticeships."



SPARKS: There are courses for people wanting to learn electrical installation skills

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Schools & education

Hadlow's green rural hub building scoops sustainable design award

HADLOW College's Rural Regeneration Centre has won its third award, after scooping the Sustainable Design Project of the Year 2012 in the Green IT Awards.

The building, which acts as a 'rural hub' for conferences and seminars, serves as a visitor centre.

The building is constructed to sustainable PassivHaus standards using renewable technology and has low carbon emissions. It uses just 10 per

cent of the typical energy consumption of a modern building and is the first of its kind to be constructed in the UK using prefabricated materials.

The RRC is a sympathetic conversion and extension to redundant cow sheds, with over 95 per cent of the original shed structure being retained on site.

It is situated on the college's operational dairy farm.

Designer of the RRC, James Anwyl, director of Eurobuild

said: "It's great to be recognised for the design work we did for Hadlow College.

"The only way to build a PassivHaus building for less than the standard cost was to rehearse the entire construction 'virtually' – on the computer using building information modelling (BIM).

"We achieved this and built at an affordable level by using BIM. Without ArchiCAD (BIM) this may not have been possible."

Tourism trip to the Gambia a life-changing experience for students

KIND-hearted Canterbury College students have returned from a trip to the Gambia that proved to be a life-changing experience – for themselves and the locals they went out to help.

The 24 BTEC extended diploma travel and tourism second year students handed over books and stationery to needy Gambian children during a week-long visit to the West African country.

This is the third year that students on this course have had the opportunity to visit the Gambia to learn about eco and sustainable tourism.

They met local tribes at a self-sufficient eco-village, Tumani Tenda, and visited Ibnu Taimiah Primary School, an orphanage and a nursery. The school, orphanage and nursery received stationery donations from the students.

They also went to the International Business College in Banjul where they discussed travel and tourism with students there.

Canterbury College travel and tourism tutor Graham Dwyer said: "Our students were very moved by the state of the school, nursery and orphanage, which are unbelievably poor and rely on money that is generated by the country's



TRAVEL: Canterbury tourism student Jagriti Keshav, 18, at the Tumani Tenda nursery

tourist trade. Ibnu Taimiah School is just a wooden hut divided into two sections. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when the Gambian pupils sang If You're Happy and You Know It, to us in English. It was an eye opener for everyone on the trip."

Travel and tourism's trip to the Gambia was a requirement for all students on the second year of the extended diploma. To find out more about travel and tourism courses go to www.canterbury-college.ac.uk/travelandtourism.

County construction firm signs up for college redevelopment scheme

KENT construction firm Denne has won a £13 million contract as part of the £25m redevelopment of MidKent College's Maidstone campus.

The landmark project – due for completion in December, 2013 – will bring the site up to the standard of the new Medway Campus in Gillingham.

The wider scheme will also include the refurbishment of the University for the Creative Arts' Maidstone campus, which was purchased by the college

last year and is also part of the Oakwood Park complex.

Director of finance Ian Rule said: "Denne has a fantastic record of delivering quality results and we were impressed by their drive and passion for this exciting project.

"They really understand the college's vision and values, and will be a valuable partner for us.

"Using the financial strength that comes from being one of the largest colleges in the South East, we can provide the scale

of funds necessary to provide our students with the state-of-the-art facilities they deserve.

"We're delighted to have reached this important milestone in the redevelopment process and look forward to witnessing the many impressive changes to come."

Operating throughout London and the South East since 1803, Denne – which has its head office in Borden, near Sittingbourne – is part of the Leadbitter Group.

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Adult Learners' Week is the UK's largest annual festival of learning, an inspiration to thousands of people each year to discover how learning can change their lives.

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Adult Learners' Week

■ Celebrates and promotes the benefits of every type of learning.

■ Gives the opportunity to explore the many different kinds of learning, whether it's wanting to get a better job, try something you've always wanted to, help your children with their school work, or discover something new.

■ Recognises outstanding individual achievements and inspires learning projects through national and regional awards.

■ Offers your organisation the chance to showcase the learning opportunities that you provide; for 2012 you can even link your activities to our themes.

■ Attracts widespread media coverage, highlighting the stories of people who have transformed their lives, proving that adult learning really does matter.

■ Is backed by thousands of supporters each year, helping us all raise the awareness of the benefits of learning.

Adult Learners' Week 2012 will be held from **May 12-18**.



UNIVERSITY STUDY TAILORED TO SUIT YOUR EVERY NEED

EVERY year, the University of Kent attracts thousands of part-time students, usually local people who work or live in the region. They are students of all ages and backgrounds, each with their own reasons for wanting to study on a part-time programme.

There are lots of ways you can study at Kent, and what you choose will depend on why you want to study: if you are interested in studying purely for pleasure and interest, then an Open Lecture or a short course might be right for you; if you want to study for personal development, there are certificates, diplomas and degrees available in a wide range of subjects available at Canterbury, Medway and Tonbridge.

There are also more than 100 part-time post-graduate programmes ranging from anthropology to war, media and modernity.

If you are interested in career development, the Kent Business School offers business and management programmes, including the prestigious Kent MBA.

Most part-time students are not school-leavers, so Kent tries to take into account your work and life experiences and your personal interests, as well as any academic qualifications you may already have.

A certificate programme is the first stage of an undergraduate degree programme at Kent.

Some certificate programmes accept applications from adults who have no formal qualifications, provided they can demonstrate an interest in and an aptitude for their chosen subject.

Computer skills are important for all students. If you are returning to study after some time you may not feel confident in using computers to assist with your work and to fulfil the requirements of the university.

If you're concerned that you don't have the skills required, Kent is able to help with a variety of training courses to suit your needs and prepare you for studying at university level.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

The Canterbury campus was founded in 1965. It is built on 300 acres of parkland overlooking Canterbury and is still growing and evolving.

Modern buildings are surrounded by open green spaces, courtyards, gardens, ponds and woodland.

It has excellent facilities including a theatre and cinema, Templeman library, purpose-built science laboratories and teaching buildings.

The campus is a 20-minute walk from the city centre and is easily reached by car or by public transport.

MEDWAY CAMPUS

Medway offers a multi-million-pound campus, with state-of-the-art buildings and facilities including the Drill Hall library.

You can expect high-quality teaching and an exceptional level of personal support.

The university has invested millions of pounds in new, purpose-built facilities.

These include lecture theatres, teaching and seminar rooms equipped with the latest technology. There is a wide range of cafés and bars for anything from a coffee to a full meal.

The Medway campus can be easily reached by car. Free parking is available close to the main campus, at the Historic Dockyard.

TONBRIDGE CENTRE

Most of our part-time courses in west Kent are taught at the Tonbridge Centre, which is a

small, friendly centre dedicated to part-time study.

Facilities including the university library at the Tonbridge Centre are open to all Kent students and our seminar rooms are equipped to the same high standard as on our Canterbury and Medway campuses.

You also have full access to all the resources available at our other campuses.

The Tonbridge Centre is ideally situated in the heart of Tonbridge, just off the high street, a five-minute walk from the railway station and close to numerous car parks.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Kent's part-time students may be eligible for funding from either Student Finance England or the university.

From September 2012, part-time students may now be eligible for a tuition-fee loan. The financial support is designed to help you with your tuition fees or with other studying costs, such as books and travel.

Please refer to www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance for full details.

OPEN DAYS AT KENT

We hold open days at Canterbury, Medway and Tonbridge several times a year.

These give you the opportunity to talk to both members of our guidance team and academic staff. For further information, please see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays.

■ If you would like to know more about the courses at Kent or advice on the right course for you, contact Kent's guidance team on 0800 975 3777, email information@kent.ac.uk, or visit www.kent.ac.uk/part-time.

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Short Course Programme 2012

COURSE TITLE	START DATE	TIME	DURATION	PRICE
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May 2012

BIIAB Award for Personal Licence Holders	14 May	9.00-5.00	1 day	£110
Emergency First Aid at Work	15 May	9.30-4.30	1 day	£80
First Aid at Work	21 May	9.30-4.30	3 days	£195
CIEH Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	28 May	9.00-5.00	3 days	£280

June 2012

Dyspraxia Awareness	12 June	9.30-12.30	½ day	£40
Time Management	12 June	1.30-4.30	½ day	£50
CIEH Award in Food Safety in Catering	13 June	9.00-5.00	1 day	£80
Assertiveness Training	13 June	12.00-3.00	½ day	£40
First Aid at Work Refresher	18 June	9.30-4.30	2 days	£105
Project Management	19 June	1.30-4.30	½ day	£50
Grandparent First Aid	21 June	9.00-1.00	½ day	£35
First Aid at Work	25 June	9.30-4.30	3 days	£195

July 2012

Office Health and Safety	4 July	9.00-12.30	½ day	£40
BIIAB Award for Personal Licence Holders	9 July	9.00-5.00	1 day	£110
CIEH Health and Safety	18 July	9.00-5.00	1 day	£80

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Correct at time of publishing 19/03/12. Course dates, times and prices are subject to change



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Ben March

ON release from prison in 2008, Ben March from Tonbridge was given the opportunity to refresh his Level Two Literacy and Numeracy qualifications, and on completion of these he was asked to become a Skills for Life tutor with the New Skills New Lives project in the Kent probation area.

This year he has been recognised for his achievements in the awards. Ben had no experience of teaching but could empathise with offenders and help them gain their literacy and numeracy qualifications, and so was given in-depth training to help him become a competent tutor.

Ben completed a Level Three Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector qualification and an Information and Guidance qualification to provide him with formal skills for the job. While working as a tutor, he is studying for a Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector and is now a fully-qualified teacher in adult education.

The work that Ben has done with young offenders has had an impact on re-offending rates and is vastly improving their job prospects, with Ben's own journey acting as an inspiration to many. "The learning that I have completed during my time with the project has been a breath of fresh air, allowing me to forge a successful new career," he said.

ADULT Learners' Week helps to inspire people make a difference in their lives and each year highlights people who have made real changes for the better.

Among them is Tegan Hunter, who had been homeless for three years, 'sofa surfing' at friends' houses and for several months sleeping on a park bench. For 18 months she has lived at a homelessness hostel.

Having done badly at school, she had no self-confidence and no idea how to get her life back on track and get a job. But through a partnership between the hostel and Canterbury College, she was able to take a series of courses and qualifications.

Through participating in a project part-funded by the European Social Fund, Tegan completed courses and qualifications in Literacy and Numeracy (both OCR levels 1 and 2), Basic IT, CV Writing, Word Processing (EDCL level 2), Spreadsheets and Employability Skills. She is now considering taking an apprenticeship in Business Administration.

More confident and focused, she is actively seeking work and encourages other residents to attend courses.

"These courses have changed my life," she said. "I didn't have the right attitude towards myself and life before I took them."

Tegan Hunter



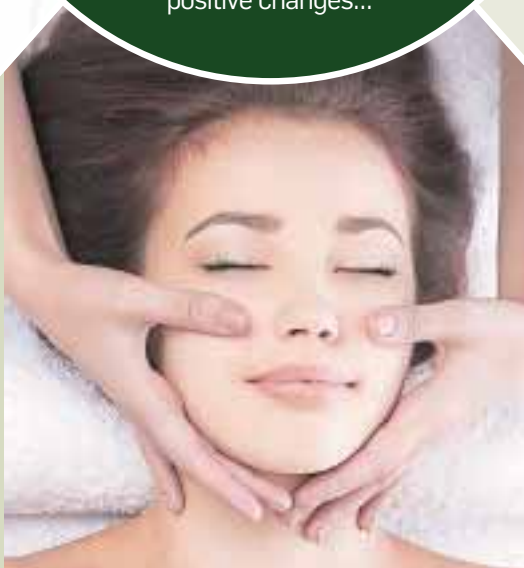
Head massage, guitar, personal training and Tai Chi are just some of the subjects on offer at a free adult learning taster day.

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service (MACLS) will be celebrating Adult Learners' Week with an open day and free taster sessions at Rainham School for Girls on Saturday, May 12. Taster sessions will also include Mahjong, British Sign Language and Floristry

Taster

The Adult Learners scheme enables people who might ordinarily never have the chance to increase their knowledge and abilities and so give themselves a better chance of finding fulfilling employment. Courses are available in a wide range of activities and allow participants to pursue their own specific interests as well as more traditional subjects.

The classes on offer in Medway are typical of the wide range available and the participants who are featured have all benefitted and their lives have undergone very positive changes...



Mark Jones

MARK Jones, who was made redundant in 2002 and suffered both from unemployment and some serious health issues, is an award-winner for 2012.

While he was ill, he built on his interest in IT and taught himself a range of skills using online resources.

He then took on some voluntary work at a local centre helping vulnerable adults learn about computing. As a result, he got qualified in IT and enrolled on a teacher-training course.

Mark now teaches at Kent Adult Education and continues to learn himself. He hopes one day to find full-time work in the IT sector.

He said: "I never thought I would leave that dark place, but I've been proven wrong."

"I use myself as an example for others – it makes them realise things can change and there can be a positive future."

How to Make your own Buttonholes. Sessions start from 10am. To check times and book a place, phone MACLS on 01634 338400.

From September 2012, MACLS will be delivering courses on Monday evenings at Rainham School for Girls. More details can be found in the new course directory, which will be available to pick up at venues throughout Medway this summer.

Sessions

**TO ADVERTISE:**TELEPHONE: **01303 817040**FAX: **01303 817004**EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

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www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Community & Planning Services Department**Sevenoaks Direct Services**

Sevenoaks Direct Services is proud to have high standards in collection of refuse, recycling and street cleaning services and the following job opportunities are available:

Green Waste Supervisor/Driver Loader

£25,201 - £27,607

Ref: DBK.001

You will be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the Green Waste Collection service as well as the collection of green waste in sacks and bins and must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

Green Waste Loader

£17,385 - £19,008

Ref: DBK.002

You will collect green waste in sacks and bins and must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

Refuse Driver/Charge Hand Loader

£20,753 - £22,776

Ref: DBK.003

You will be responsible for a vehicle and crew used in the safe and efficient collection of domestic and trade waste. You must hold a current LGV driving licence for vehicles weighing up to 26 tonnes and be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

Refuse Loader

£17,385 - £19,008

Ref: DBK.004

You will collect domestic or trade refuse in sacks or bins according to the schedules and as directed by either the Refuse Charge Hand or Cleansing Supervisor. You must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including manual handling.

Refuse Sack Driver/Deliverer

£17,385 - £19,008

Ref: DBK.005

You will transport and deliver rolls of plastic sacks according to the schedules as directed by the Sack Delivery Charge hand. You must be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post including driving, manual handling and on foot deliveries to households.

All the posts require you to work up to eight Saturdays per year to cover for Public Holiday catch-ups and full details for each advert, job description and personal specifications can be found on the Sevenoaks website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

For an informal discussion about any of these posts, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375.

To apply online please visit our website@www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs or contact the Human Resources Team by emailing recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk or by phoning 01732 227383 to request an application pack quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date: Friday 11 May 2012. Interviews will take place week commencing 21 May 2012 and will be arranged directly with short-listed candidates.

Sevenoaks District Council is committed to being an Equal Opportunities employer.

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**PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT****WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED**

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

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To place your notice here,
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The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff

Staff Nurses (Ashford) to work on our Flexi bank

Closing date for applications - Friday 11th May 2012

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Debbie Burr - 01233 616201 Ext 86202

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing,

QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com



The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.



The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Part time Staff Nurses Ashford

Closing date for applications - Friday 11th May 2012

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

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Swale Academies Trust



WESTLANDS SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER

**£14,240 - £16,144
37 hours a week**

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, they will be expected to undertake site maintenance. A working knowledge and experience of carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating would be desirable.

Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours as and when required. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: Wednesday 9 May 2012

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management P0482

18.5 hours per week

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)

Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will be considered.

Quality Co-ordinator P0070

Salary: £24,842 - £31,516 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)

Medway

We are seeking to appoint a Quality Co-ordinator who will make an important contribution to the monitoring and development of the college's quality improvement procedures and initiatives. Reporting to the Assistant Principal - Standards and Quality Improvement, you will work closely with the Faculty Heads and teaching and support staff across the college. You will act as the College Quality Nominee for awarding bodies and have a thorough understanding of the assessment processes of vocational provision.

College Youth Worker P0617

Salary: £20,724 - £26,702 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)

Medway and Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a self-starter who is highly motivated and is able to give clear focus to our youth work, working as a member of our dedicated Student Support Team at the College's new state of the art campus in Medway and our Maidstone site that is undergoing refurbishment. You will be responsible for moving forward our established learner voice model and advocating student's voice throughout college. To support our Students' Union and engage our ever increasing number of 16-19 year olds in Citizenship, volunteering, sport and other enrichment activities to supplement their learning and development. You will continue to develop partnerships with local organisations to take forward joint projects. This is an exciting role where you will need to use your organisational, communication and team working skills to make a real difference to many young people's lives.

MIS Data Administrator P0104

Salary: £15,503 - £18,066 per annum

Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to collect and enter data efficiently and assist with the smooth running of the Management Information Services department. The successful candidate will have data entry and administrative experience. In addition, knowledge of current legislation regarding Data Protection and Equality and Diversity would be beneficial.

Apprentice in Business Administration P0500

Training Allowance: £6,314 per annum

Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our MIS Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration.

Closing date: 12 noon, Thursday 17 May 2012

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk.

Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



MidKent College

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PLANNING

PUBLIC NOTICE: COUNCILLORS ' AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE 2011/2012

Notice is hereby given that the payments made to members' (elected councillors and co-opted members) of Shepway District Council during the financial year 2011-12 in respect of basic, special responsibility, co-optee's and travel and subsistence and other allowances were as follows:

Councillor	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility Allowance £	Co-optees	Travel/Subsistence and Other Allowances £	Total £
Allen	3,461.59	680.08		£206.78	4,348.45
Arnold	3,867.00			231.00	4,098.00
Barker	3,867.00	8,593.96			12,460.96
Belcourt	3,867.00	8,593.96		1,207.20	13,668.16
Berry	3,461.59			206.78	3,668.37
Beaumont	374.23	160.90		22.35	557.48
Bliss	3,867.00	20,731.04		1,664.52	26,262.56
Bunting	3,867.00	1,354.46		58.10	5,279.56
Carey	3,867.00	669.46		231.00	4,767.46
Carroll	374.23				374.23
Carr	3,867.00	3,411.54		704.15	7,982.69
Clifton-Holt	3,867.00	8,593.96		748.90	13,209.86
Collier	3,461.59			206.78	3,668.37
Copping	3,867.00	3,976.61		469.22	8,312.83
Dawson	3,867.00			625.49	4,492.49
Dearden	3,867.00	8,593.96		35.00	12,495.96
Dunning	3,867.00	868.24		266.00	5,001.24
Ewart-James	3,867.00	975.76		368.70	5,211.46
Gane	3,867.00	1,205.21		264.88	5,337.09
Goddard	3,867.00			630.30	4,497.30
Godfrey	3,867.00	769.22		24.22	4,660.44
Grundy	3,461.59			206.78	3,668.37
Hayward	3,867.00				3,867.00
Hill	374.23			22.35	396.58
Hills	3,867.00	731.87		544.28	5,143.15
Holben	3,867.00	3,542.47		231.00	7,640.47
Hollingsbee	3,867.00	5,833.03		1,373.30	11,073.33
Johnson	3,867.00	975.76		231.00	5,073.76
Lawrence	3,867.00	457.48		286.40	4,610.88
Loseby	374.23			22.35	396.58
Love	3,867.00	9,378.52		2,377.05	15,622.57
Lyons	3,867.00	975.76		824.09	5,666.85
Marsh	3,867.00	386.32		231.00	4,484.32
Martin	3,867.00	868.24			4,735.24
Matthews	374.23	382.84		22.35	779.42
McNeice	374.23			22.35	396.58
D Monk	3,867.00	8,593.96		310.48	12,771.44
P Monk	3,867.00	1,630.59			5,497.59
Mullard	3,461.59	225.79		622.38	4,309.76
Newlands	3,867.00	1,354.46		515.20	5,736.66
North	3,867.00	975.76		231.00	5,073.76
Owen	3,867.00	3,500.75		231.00	7,598.75
Pascoe	3,867.00	1,312.73		254.40	5,434.13
Peacock	3,461.59			242.78	3,704.37
Peall	3,867.00	7,754.49		374.18	11,995.67
Prater	374.23				374.23
Simmons	3,461.59			752.09	4,213.68
Stephenson	3,867.00			461.65	4,328.65
Tilson	3,867.00	8,593.96		561.38	13,022.34
Wallace	3,867.00			231.00	4,098.00
Waters	374.23	852.29		265.55	1,492.07
West	3,461.59	188.16		206.78	3,856.53
Williams	374.23				374.23
Wilkins	3,461.59			206.78	3,668.37
Wimble	3,461.59			206.78	3,668.37
Independents					
Valerie Cooney			648.96		648.96
Raymond Morgan			648.96		648.96
Frank Hobbs			648.96		648.96
Roger Joynes			648.96		648.96
Geoffrey Tyler			648.96		648.96
David Carter			1,388.04		1,388.04
	177,195.97	127,693.59	4,632.84	20,239.10	329,761.50

Notes:
Basic Allowance recognises the time devoted by all councillors to their work, including meetings of the Council, Cabinet, committees and sub-committees, representation of the Council on outside bodies, meetings with constituents and all incidental costs;
Special Responsibility Allowances recognise the time devoted by those councillors who have significant extra responsibilities (eg leadership of the Council and of political groups, membership of the Cabinet and chairmanship of committees), but also reflect an element of voluntary public service;
Co-optees' allowance recognise the time devoted by those co-opted members who serve on the Standards Committee of the Council but who are not elected members of the Council; the allowance also reflect an element of voluntary public service;
All payments made are gross amounts which are subject to deduction of tax where appropriate.

J A Stewart
Chief Executive
The Civic Centre
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone
Kent CT20 2QY

Date: 6th May 2012



SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Local Authorities' (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 place certain duties on local authorities in connection with publicising the recommendations made by their Independent Remuneration Panel. (IRP).

- The report of the IRP proposes a model for allowances that is transparent, sustainable, easy to understand and easy to operate. The model proposed would link all allowances to the basic councillors allowance (paid to all councillors) by a 'points' system.
- The recommended 'point' scores for different roles are based on the panel's consideration of the appropriate and justifiable relationships between those roles as they operate at Shepway District Council. The consolidated basic allowance referred to below has a point score of 100. The relative 'scores' may not be the same as in other Councils, but the panel is a Shepway panel looking at what is relevant and appropriate within Shepway.
- Based on this approach, the report proposes point scores for each of the special responsibility allowances, which will, if adopted, establish the relationships both between the different special responsibility allowances and between those allowances and the basic allowance.

The recommendations of the panel relate to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/13. They are as follows:

- That the option for councillors to join the Local Government Pension Scheme not be introduced
 - That Shepway District Council introduce a dependants' carers' allowance at the level of the national minimum wage
 - That no changes be made to the current scheme for reimbursing travel and subsistence expenses
 - That the scheme for travelling and subsistence related to official duties be adopted by the council
 - That the voluntary discount be maintained at 50%
 - That the current ICT allowance be consolidated into the basic allowance
 - That the revised consolidated basic allowance be set at £4,500
 - That the councillors basic allowances be adjusted annually at the start of the civic year by the Consumer Price Index figure for the proceeding February (published in March)
 - That the application of indexation to the councillors basic allowance be subject to an annual vote of full Council
 - That special responsibility allowances be determined by reference to the basic allowance and amended in line with amendments to that basic allowance
 - That the committees are classified into tiers and that special responsibility allowances be paid to the chairs of tier one and tier two committees only
 - That the special responsibility allowance for the chair of a tier one committee be set at 100 points which equates to an allowance of £4,500
 - That the That special responsibility allowance for the chair of a tier two committee be set at 30 points and frozen at its current level until the effects of indexation brings the proposed allowance to the level of the current allowance which equates to an allowance of £1,350
 - The payment of special responsibility allowances to vice-chairs of committees is discontinued
 - The special responsibility allowance for the role of cabinet members is set at the level of 200 points which equates to an allowance of £9,000
 - The special responsibility allowance for the role of Deputy Leader of the Council is set at the level of 220 points which equates to an allowance of £9,900
 - The special responsibility allowance for Leader of the Council is set at 440 points which equates to an allowance of £19,800
 - That the special responsibility allowance for Leader of the Council is frozen at its current level until such time as the proposed level matches the current level under indexation arrangements
 - That up to a maximum of nine special responsibility allowances are paid to Lead Members set at a level of 30 points which equates to an allowance of £1,350
 - That the current group allowances be abolished
 - That a single special responsibility allowance for the role of 'Leader of the Opposition' (being defined as the leader of the largest minority group not forming part of the administration) be introduced at the level of 150 points which equates to an allowance of £6,750
 - The special responsibility allowance for the role of Chair of the Council is set at 150 points which equates to an allowance of £6,750
 - The special responsibility allowance for the role of Vice-Chair of the Council is set at 30 points which equates to an allowance of £1,350
 - The SRA for Co-opted Members covered by the scheme of remuneration for Councillors be set at 15 points which equates to an allowance of £675
- The Council is due to meet at its Annual Meeting scheduled for 9 May 2012 to consider the recommendations of the panel and to decide whether to adopt the new scheme.
- More information is available on the Shepway District Council website at <http://www.shepway.gov.uk/content/view/20127781/> or for public inspection during normal working hours, between 9.00am and 5.00pm at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY; telephone 01303 853241 or email committee@shepway.gov.uk
- Dated this 6th day of May 2012



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

- The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
- The application is for a Major Development.
- The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
- This Application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 14 MAY 2012

- SW/12/0320:
Relocation of access - Copton Thatch, 15/16 Ashford Road, SHELDWICH; REASON 3
- SW/12/0363:
Variation of condition iv of SW/78/0376, condition ii of SW/82/0758 and iv of SW/84/0577 to allow the land to be used for B1, B2 or B8 use - Oak Tree Farm, Bottles Lane, RODMERSHAM; REASON 3
- SW/12/0433:
Replacement shop front - 20 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 1
- SW/12/0455:
Listed Building Consent for new sash window in existing opening - 52 Tanners Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0477:
Single storey side extension and internal alterations - The Rose Inn, 80 High Street, QUEENBOROUGH; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0480 & SW/12/0481:
To install two new external access staircases & two internal staircases to existing workshop buildings, minor floor joist alterations necessary for internal staircases, former openings reused for external staircases - Buildings 1 & 2, Standard Quay, Abbey Road, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1, 2 & 4
- SW/12/0483:
Listed Building Consent for alterations to one rooflight and removal of 2 rooflights - 75 West Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0484:
Listed Building Consent for replacement of seven internal doors (retrospective) - 75 West Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0485:
Listed Building Consent for removal of casement windows and their replacement with leaded windows with Oak frames on rear elevation of property (retrospective) - 75 West Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0486:
Listed Building Consent for the addition of a new soil vent stack positioned in the shared alleyway between 75 & 76 West Street to the side and back of the property (retrospective) - 75 West Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0487:
Listed Building Consent for loft conversion. Conversion of loft area into habitable living space incorporating ensuite shower room and one bedroom/study (retrospective) - 75 West Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0489 & SW/12/0490:
Erection of four - storey building comprising 11 flats on first, second and third floors with roof garden - ground floor to provide car parking and space for alternative non-residential uses, potentially comprising storage of small craft and changing facilities or marine associated community use or museum or office, along with creekside walkway/viewing area and resurfacing of flood lane and application for conservation area consent for demolition of unlisted fuel tanks, boundary walls and fences - Ordnance Wharf, Flood Lane, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1, 3, 4 & 6
- SW/12/0496:
Change of use from store (domestic) to ancillary accommodation - Rectory Cottage, Kingsdown Road, MILSTEAD; REASON 4
- SW/12/0498 & SW/12/0499:
Demolition of existing kitchen wall - 3 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- SW/12/0512:
Erection of 2 detached chalet bungalows with associated parking - Land adj Marley, High Street Road, HERNHILL; REASON 4
- SW/12/0515:
Replacement UPVC vertical sliding sash windows to front of house plus new composite front door - 8 Vicarage Street, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1
- SW/12/0526 & SW/12/0527:
Re-application for restoration & conversion of Coach House into 2 bedroom dwelling - demolition of single storey partly ruined rear extension & part of garden wall - St Anns Cross Coach House, 87 South Road, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2
- Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.
- James Freeman
Head of Planning

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995Notice of making a Direction under article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning
(General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

Notice is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 1st May 2012 and comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the date on which the Notice is first published. However, the Direction will expire on 31st October 2012 unless it is confirmed by the Authority before that date, having taken into account of any representations received within 28 days of 5th May 2012.

First Schedule

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

Schedule 2 Part 1 -

Class F

The provision within the curtilage of a dwelling house of a hard surface for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house as such, where the hard surface would front a relevant location.

Schedule 2 Part 2 -

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure, where the gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure would front a relevant location.

Second Schedule

Properties within the area of the St James North Special identity Area, Royal Tunbridge Wells Conservation Area to which the Direction relates:

St James Church and 1 to 67 (odd numbers) St James Road
2 to 58 (even numbers) St James Road
52A St James Park
60 to 70 (even numbers) Albion Road
19A and 21 Granville Road
1 to 65 (odd numbers) Beulah Road
2 to 60 (even numbers) Beulah Road
1 to 9 Georgia Place and Church Road Ferndale

Paul Cummins
Legal Services Manager
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0337/SH - 64 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8AT - Retention of single storey detached store room building to rear of premises.

Y12/0294/SH# - Prince Of Wales Fairfield Road New Romney Kent TN28 8HW - Change of use from public house (Class A4) to residential dwelling (Class C3).

Y12/0381/SH# - Moat House Ashford Road Ivychurch Romney Marsh Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0176/SH for the erection of a single storey extension to the existing garage.

Y12/0382/SH# - Moat House Ashford Road Ivychurch Romney Marsh Kent - Extension to time limit of listed building consent Y09/0320/SH for the erection of a single storey extension to the existing garage.

Y12/0379/SH+ - Pavement outside 90 North Road Hythe Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0305/SH - 94 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3BY - Installation of a replacement shop front.

Y12/0197/SH+ - 47 North Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DX - Installation of dormer windows and cladding to gable ends, together with formation of a 'Juliet' balcony.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0244/S - 2, WEST PIKEFISH FARM COTTAGES, PIKE FISH LANE, LADDINGFORD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BH - Listed Building Consent for removal of existing concrete door step at front of property and application of lime render over exposed, shot blasted, brickwork of lower elevation at front of property. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0506/S - 2, ELVEYS COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HY - Front extension to attached garage and conversion to habitable room (resubmission of MA/11/1788). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0529/N - VALLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HUNTSMAN LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DT - Erection of new two-storey classroom block for Invicta Grammar School and new three-storey classroom block for Valley Park School. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0559/S - LITTLE CHEGWORTH, CHEGWORTH ROAD, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1DG - Change of use of barn to holiday let with associated alterations to fenestration. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0586/S - THE ELMS, REDWALL LANE, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RL - Partly retrospective application for the erection of a tractor/implement storage building and construction of an access track. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0590/N - LAND AT DEPOT SITE, GEORGE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6NX - Demolition of existing commercial buildings and erection of a residential development comprising of 33 dwellings and associated parking. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0591/S - EAST FARLEIGH HOUSE, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JW - Construction of a new vehicular access and parking area and erection of new brick wall and gate piers. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0593/S - EAST FARLEIGH HOUSE, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JW - Conservation Area Consent for demolition of a fence. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/0602/S - LITTLE VENICE COUNTRY PARK, HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, ME18 6HH - Application for a new planning permission to replace existing planning permission MA/07/2296 (Change of use of land and engineering works to create a 200 berth marina with associated service pontoon, footbridge, means of access and car parking) to allow a further three years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 2, 6, 8**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 8 - Application is the subject of an Environmental Assessment.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **20th May 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 6th May 2012



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01094/HOUSE **Mafeking The Street, Benenden**
- Two single storey extensions to provide a utility room and study and a playroom/guest room (LB) (CA)

12/01100/HOUSE **Wealden Heights Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Creation of hard tennis court with 9' high perimeter fencing (LB)

12/01110/FUL **Leelands Benenden Girls School, Benenden**
- New glazed screen, new windows to part north west elevation and internal alterations (LB)

12/01051/FUL **Marlborough House School High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Replacement tractor and garden implement store (LB)

12/01050/HOUSE **Upper Haymans Farm Haymans Hill, Horsmonden**
- Annex extension to farmhouse to provide accommodation for agricultural worker (PROW)

12/01145/HOUSE **Coggers Bank Parsonage Lane, Lamberhurst**
- Part replacement and raising of roof to provide first floor accommodation, including dormer windows and rooflights (CA)

12/01138/FUL **17 - 19 Chapel Place Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use to tearooms, internal and external alterations and demolition of courtyard wall to rear (LB) (CA)

12/01140/LBC **17 - 19 Chapel Place Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use to tearooms, internal and external alterations and demolition of courtyard wall to rear (LB)

12/01129/FUL **Flat Ground Floor 12 Sutherland Road, Park**
Brick up existing back door and 1 window on side elevation. Form new smaller window opening on same side elevation. Brick up 2 existing windows on rear elevation. Form new patio door and 1 window on rear elevation - window area to be larger than existing window (CA)

12/01202/FUL **Frames & Pictures 15 Camden Road, Park**
- Shop frontage and advertisement above (CA)

12/01098/HOUSE **Clovely Back Road, Sandhurst**
- Two-storey side extension with single storey rear extension (CA)

12/01099/FUL **Golford Stables Tenterden Road, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Three bedroom dwelling to replace mobile home (LB)

12/01187/FULMJ **Fridays Of Cranbrook Ltd Chequer Tree Farm, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**

- Demolition of 8 of the existing 11 poultry sheds and erection of 3 poultry houses for egg production, each equipped with 4 feed bins (MAJOR)

12/01059/HOUSE **Burnt Cottage Langton Road, Speldhurst**
- Single storey and two storey rear extensions to replace existing flat roof extension (LB)

12/01061/LBC **Burnt Cottage Langton Road, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey and two storey rear extensions to replace existing flat roof extension (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgegates.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgegates.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 5 May 2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSIONNOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN
AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/TW/0142/2012 - Proposed development at
Pembury Wastewater Treatment Works, Maidstone
Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4AQ**

Southern Water Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for construction of two walk-in kiosks, five sand filters and other minor structures to support upgrades to the wastewater treatment works. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 6th May 2012



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PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/12/00308/FUL: 52 Argyle Road, Whitstable, CT5 1JR New timber front door and pave front path in black and white tiles. **Applicant: K Verity**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00381/FUL: 88 Spenser Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QP Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs MacDonald**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00423/FUL: Youngs Farm, Catt's Wood Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5PG Construction of an outbuilding and ground mounted solar panels. **Applicant: Mr P Bell** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
- CA/12/00437/FUL: 30 Stanley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SH Erection of outbuilding. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr K Ryan**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00492/FUL: 16 Temple Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JD Erection of fence and replacement of timber windows with UPVC.
Applicant: Revd P Jacobs Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00497/FUL: 48 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA Replacement of timber with upvc windows. **Applicant: Mr Owens**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00548/PEN: 70 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HL Replacement windows and door to front and rear elevations.
Applicant: J Double Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00562/FUL: Playhouse Theatre, 104 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AZ Replacement of external lighting with LEDs.
Applicant: Mr Jenner Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00570/FUL: 22 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SS Installation of new shop front and internally illuminated roller shutter.
Applicant: GREGGS PLC Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00571/ADV: 22 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SS Internally illuminated fascia and projecting sign. **Applicant: GREGGS PLC**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00589/FUL: Bridge Cottage, The Street, Barham, CT4 6NY Erection of garage with accommodation above. **Applicant: Dr Begg**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00621/FUL: Almory House, Monastery Street, Canterbury, CT1 1NW Demolition of two existing buildings on site and redevelopment to create a private medical centre for The King's School, with two staff apartments above and one linked detached three-bedroomed dwelling house. **Applicant: The King's School** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00622/CAC: Almory House, Monastery Street, Canterbury, CT1 1NW Demolition of two existing buildings in connection with redevelopment of the site. **Applicant: The King's School** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
- CA/12/00623/FUL: 47 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8LF Single-storey extensions to side and rear and insertion of two no roof flights to front.
Applicant: Mr Devereux Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00637/FUL: 15 Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW Demolition of conservatory and erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling.
Applicant: Mrs Kidd Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00640/FUL: Saltshore House, 31 West Cliff, Whitstable, CT5 1DL Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Pod Architects**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00641/CAC: Kingsmead CP School, St Johns Place, Canterbury, CT1 1BD Demolition of Adult Education Centre retaining elevations in part and demolition of part of toilet on Kingsmead School (to facilitate redevelopment of site). **Applicant: Kent County Council**
Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
- CA/12/00647/FUL: 5 Clifton Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DQ Two and single-storey extensions to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Boo**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00651/FUL: 24A Westbere Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HH Conversion of garage to gymnasium for domestic use only and construction of three bay cart shed for vehicle storage. **Applicant: Mr C Rawke** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00654/FUL: Charter House, St George's Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UQ Installation of two condenser units to roof of building.
Applicant: D Lomax Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00657/FUL: The Telephone Exchange, Ashford Road, Chartham, CT4 7HS Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hutchings** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00658/CAC: The Telephone Exchange, Ashford Road, Chartham, CT4 7HS Demolition of existing dwelling in connection with erection of replacement dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hutchings** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
- CA/12/00659/FUL: Land at Gordon Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PP Erection of a block of five one-bed, one three-bed flats and a block of eight maisonettes. **Applicant: Mr Bowler** Reason: Major and conservation area.
- CA/12/00660/CAC: Land at Gordon Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PP Demolition of industrial building to facilitate redevelopment of the site.
Applicant: Mr Bowler Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
- CA/12/00673/FUL: 52 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1EA Replacement single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Dominic Wade**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00677/FUL: 40 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8DQ Two-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Simon Barber**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00678/FUL: 38B St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BY Construction of a detached residential dwelling on land off Ryde Street to the rear of 38B St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury following demolition of existing garage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Johns** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00706/LB: Bridge Cottage, The Street, Barham, CT4 6NY Erection of garage with accommodation above. **Applicant: Dr Begg**
Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 28 May 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 4 May 2012

HIGHWAYS

CRETE ROAD WEST will be closed from 21 May 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Elvington Lane and Gibraltar Lane.

The alternative route is via Elvington Lane and Gibraltar Lane.

CRETE ROAD EAST will be closed from 29 May 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A260 Canterbury Road, Hill Road and B2011 Dover Hill

THE OLD HIGH STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Old High Street, Folkestone, on or after 21 May 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 10.

There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access for businesses whenever it is safe to do so.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, HAWKINGE) (WIDTH RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces a 6'6" width restriction on the following roads:-

	Location	Proposal
1	Mill Lane, Hawkinge	For its entire length
2	St Deny's Road, Hawkinge	For its entire length
3	Old Rectory Close	For its entire length

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Shepway District Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY

The Order will be made on 10 May 2012 and will come into operation on 14 May 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

LUDDENHAM HILL, LUDDENHAM, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to safely remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council intends to make an

Order prohibiting through traffic on Luddenham Hill, Luddenham, Faversham, on or after 26 May 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the north of the junction with Bysing Wood Road.

The alternative route is via Wildmarsh Road and Bysing Wood Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO XX) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effects of which would be to:-

Install double yellow line parking restrictions within the newly resurfaced turning head in St. Peters Footpath. The markings will extend for a length of zometres to accompany the existing KEEP CLEAR markings.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 28th May 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MILL STREET, EAST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Street outside of 157 on or after Tuesday 8th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via New Road, Chapman Way, Winterfield Lane, Clare Lane.

Crown Utilities Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install mains and services at the development. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Michaela Radford on 0800 027 5052.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 6th May 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

BRIDGE STREET, WYE (SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the renovation of the Southern Water Treatment Works, Kent County Council has made an Order amending the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Bridge Street, Wye.

This takes effect on or after 7 May 2012 for up to 20 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The effect of this is to suspend the One-way Order to allow construction traffic to travel in the reverse direction, when the specific traffic control and signage is in place.

This applies to the section of Bridge Street between Churchfield Way and the approach to the treatment works, and only applies to construction traffic involved in the renovation works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

CANTERBURY ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow Network Rail to carry out a bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, on or after 24 May 2012 from 10.00 pm through until 6.00 am the following morning.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Beltinge Road, Sea View Road, Reculver Road, Margate Road, A299 Thanet Way and Canterbury Road.

KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable a sewer connection to be made to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street, Canterbury, on or after 21 May 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Friars.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via King Street, Palace Street and Orange Street.

Northbound via Orange Street, Palace Street, The Borough, St Radigund's Street, Knotts Lane and King Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) (A256 WHITFIELD BY-PASS, TILMANSTONE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief office of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces experimentally no right turns from the A256 Whitfield By-pass, Tilmanstone onto Dover Road, Tilmanstone.

1. No person causing any vehicle proceeding on the A256 Whitfield By-pass, Tilmanstone shall cause that vehicle to turn right into Dover Road, Tilmanstone

This Order was made on 1 May 2012 and will come into force on 7 May 2012.

The Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of this experimental Order should continue in force indefinitely.

Full details are contained in the Order which together with the relevant plans and a statement for the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover.

Within the period of 18 months of the coming into force of the Experimental Traffic Order any person may object to this Order prior to making the Order permanent. If you wish to object to the Experimental Order you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Traffic Schemes Team, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD or by e mail to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk.

DUKE STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Duke Street, Deal, on or after 8 May 2012 for up to 3 days.

The road will be closed between the junctions with West Street and High Street.

The alternative route is via West Street, Stanhope Road and High Street.

CAPEL STREET, CAPEL-LE-FERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne, on or after 26 May 2012 for up to 2 days, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases between New Dover Road and the bridge over the A20 Trunk Road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Cauldham Lane, Swinge Hill and Hockley Sole Lane.

Various side roads will be closed at their junctions with Capel Street as the works progress, as signposted on site.

COLD BLOW LEVEL CROSSING, RIPPLE, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cold Blow Level Crossing, Ripple, Deal, on or after 27 May 2012, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

Coldbow will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Coldblow, Ripple Road, A258 Dover Road, Station Road and Coldblow.

KINGSDOWN ROAD, ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Kingsdown Road, St Margaret's at Cliffe, on or after 23 May 2012 for up to 1 day, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, which also affects access to The Freedown.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

SINGLEEDGE LANE, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Singleedge Lane, Whitfield, on or after 21 May 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Green Lane and Coldred Road.

The alternative route is via Coldred Road, The Street, Kennel Hill, Sandwich Road and Nursery Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO.11) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

1. The Order "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Various Roads, Dover District) (Waiting Restriction and Street Parking Places) (Amendment No.11) Order 2012" will introduce a "Prohibition of Waiting at any time" (double yellow lines).

DOVER ROAD - SANDWICH

- (i) Dover Road - Northwest side, from the junction with Stone Cross Lees for a distance 20 metres in a south westerly direction and 20 metres in a north easterly direction.

STONE CROSS LEES - SANDWICH

- (ii) Stone Cross Lees - Both sides, from the junction of Dover Road for a distance of 12 metres in a north westerly direction.

DOVER ROAD - SANDWICH

- (iii) Dover Road - Northwest side, from a point in line with the south western boundary wall of No.43 Dover Road south westwards to the south western boundary wall of No.47 Dover Road.

A copy of the Order, which comes into force 08th May 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

NORWOOD LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Norwood Lane, Meopham between properties Sunhollow and Wembury.

The Order will become effective on 21st May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 25th May 2012 and planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Norwood Lane, Camber Road and Wrotham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a Sewer connection.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH STREET, LOOSE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Street, outside Church House Loose on or after Tuesday 8th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via High Banks and Old Loose Hill.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay duct in the carriageway. Should you require any further information contact is Clinton Simmonds on 07810 504808.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CROUCH HOUSE ROAD, EDENBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crouch House Road, Edenbridge, on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Orchard Drive to Greshams Way.

The alternative route is via Stangrove Road, B2026 Mont St Aignay Way and Station Road, Hilders Lane and Crouch House Road

FURNACE LANE/COWDEN TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Furnace Lane.

The Order will become effective on 06 May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 07/05/2012 and will last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: approaching from the east the diversion route is along Smithers Lane Dormanland, Surrey, then south along Shepherds Grove Lane Forest Row, East Sussex, north along Holtlye Hill East Sussex and then west along Furnace Lane East Sussex from where you will enter Furnace Lane Cowden. The diversion for traffic approaching from the West is as above but reversed.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate essential carriageway works.

STATION ROAD (BLOWERS HILL) COWDEN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

HE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road (Blowers Hill) from the Railway Bridge to Junction of Cow Lane.

The Order will become effective on 6th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 10th May 2012 and will last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Blowers Hill, Station Road, Spode Lane, B2026 Hartfield Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate railway bridge examination works.

TWITTON LANE, SHOREHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Twitton Lane, Shoreham from the junction of Filston Lane to the junction with Pilgrims Way, Otford, Sevenoaks.

The Order will become effective on 20th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence

On 22nd May 2012 and will last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pilgrims Way East, Filston Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CRETE ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crete Road, Folkestone, on or after 21 May 2012, as detailed below.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE AREA OF
CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 19(2)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF
THE REGISTER OF TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mr. and Mrs. N. Harrington under section 19(4) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks to correct an alleged error by the Registration Authority in making an entry in the Register of Town and Village Greens. The effect of the application, if successful, is to remove land from the Register of Town and Village Greens for unit number VG124, as described in the Schedule below.

The application may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221511 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to the Commons Registration Team at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 18th June 2012. Please quote reference CAA15/VG124.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description and effect of the application

The application seeks to amend the Register of Town and Village Greens for unit number VG124 (known as Duncan Down) by removing from the registration a piece of land of approximately 676 square metres situated at the boundary of the Village Green with 55 Gordon Road and 33 Stanley Road at Whitstable.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE AREA OF
CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF
LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by the Friends of Duncan Down under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 18th June 2012. Please quote reference VGA637.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 0.14 acres (0.05 hectares) in size forming part of a wider area known locally as Duncan Down, situated in the vicinity of South View Farm and Benacre Road at Whitstable in Kent. The land subject to the application immediately abuts existing Village Greens VG232 and VG240.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE AREA OF
CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 19(2)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF
THE REGISTER OF TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Seasalter Shellfish (Whitstable) Ltd. under section 19(4) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks to correct an alleged error by the Registration Authority in making an entry in the Register of Town or Village Greens. The effect of the application, if successful, is to remove land from the Register of Town and Village Greens for unit number VG126, as described in the Schedule below.

The application may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221511 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to the Commons Registration Team at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 18th June 2012. Please quote reference CAA16/VG126.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be

treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description and effect of the application

The application seeks to amend the Register of Town or Village Greens for unit number VG126 (known as West Beach and Seasalter Beach) by removing from the registration a strip of land of approximately 0.6 acres (0.2 hectares) comprising a row of beach huts on the landward side of the Village Green registration.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SU35
IN THE PARISH OF SEVENOAKSPUBLIC FOOTPATH SU35
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath SU35, between the junction with Oak Lane and the junction with Grassy Lane from the 18th May 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The route will be closed because works to re-roof Morning Cottage mean the route will be impassable and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Mr Sam Honey

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF
SHEPWAY

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF
LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by a group of local residents under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below.

Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 18th June 2012. Please quote reference VGA638.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for
registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 13.6 acres (5.5 hectares) in size, situated at the junction of Cockreed Lane and Rolfe Lane in New Romney, Kent.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1,
IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEAPUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1, MINSTER
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed part of Public Footpath ZS1 between Kent Avenue and The Broadway from the 30th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that the proposed works will take 3 weeks and will be completed by 20 July 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Kent Avenue and The Broadway and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 6th May 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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Wild-animal park shows how we can help protect at-risk species

SEE PAGE 63



ALAN DAVIES GETS DARK

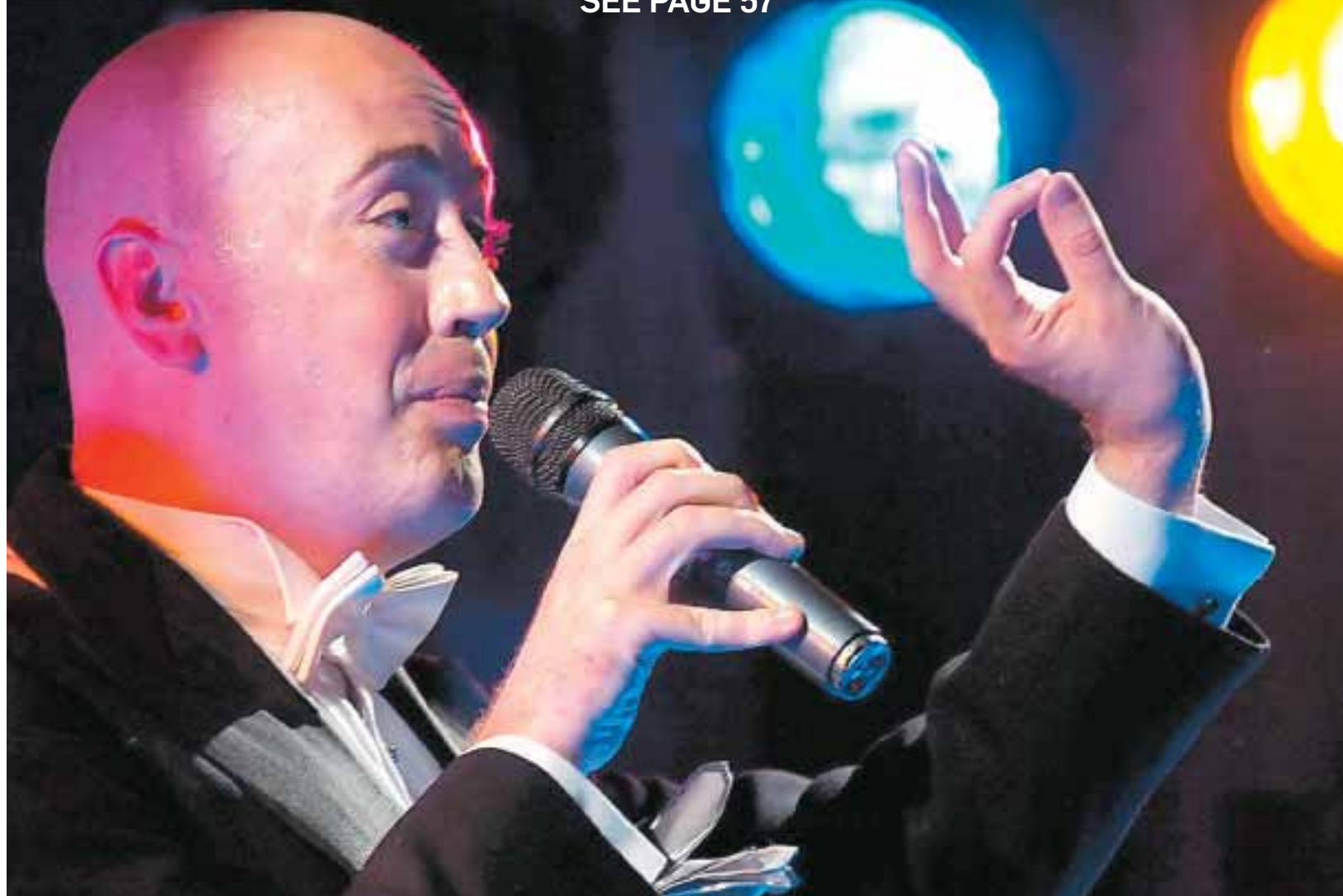
The comedian, panellist and actor prepares to stand up and explain how life is pain

SEE PAGE 65

Kent Weekend

The king of cabaret

SEE PAGE 57



PLUS: Will an Arabian night in the city be to your taste? - **food and drink p59** Home-owners optimistic of rise in prices - **property p69** Peugeot's latest scares its rivals but spares the horses - **driving p75**



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THE INTERVIEW

Paul L Martin

Trinity Million, the global sensation who never forgets his county roots

Joe Bill meets the village lad whose one-off charity show inspired an international career

THE late-night entertainment bars and clubs of London's West End can seem a million miles away from the villages of Kent.

But for Paul L Martin, who hails from Littlebourne, near Canterbury, having his name in lights in the capital became almost a right of passage.

The 36-year-old has been described by The Stage magazine as the king of cabaret and his career has seen him perform across the world.

But Martin's transition to his recent role as a panel judge on a cable-TV reality show was far from the typical pushy parents and child-star syndrome so many performers go through.

He said: "I have the people of Kent, and especially Littlebourne, to thank for pushing me into cabaret. My mother went on the committee of the local leukaemia research fund because the son of a friend of hers had leukaemia and they were trying to think of ways to raise money for him.

"I was only 15 at the time and my mum said 'Why don't you and your little friends put on a show?'. So basically we did a 90-minute show in a barn and it went from there.

"We performed songs from musicals, sketches and comedy from Victoria Wood – and we ended up doing it four years in a row. I didn't know at the time that it was cabaret that I was doing but that is definitely where it started."

Martin is currently the judge on the Sky Living show Bigger Than..., which offers lookalikes the chance to be pampered like their famous counterparts, but with a rather large twist.

He explained: "You add in the name of a pop star, say Bigger than... Britney. It is a search for lookalikes who are bigger than the pop star.

"We find some large girls who might look like Britney if they slimmed down a bit and we give them weight-loss programmes that Britney has tried in the past. We knock it down to the last three and then the winner gets representation

with my agency company."

But back at the start of his career, the cabaret star wasn't aware of the path his career would take: "I think I was quite stupid when I was younger. I didn't know that I wanted to go into performance – people had to tell me. It was a bit ridiculous that I hadn't realised it because I was always singing and dancing and all that.

"I worked at Canterbury Cathedral during a year out and all the ladies there would say 'Of course, you'll be off to drama school soon' and I hadn't even thought about it."

At 20, Martin went to Mountview Drama School in London, but it didn't exactly end how the performer had planned.

He said: "I did a three-year musical theatre course, but right before the end I had problems with funding and I actually didn't graduate. I left about three months before the ceremony and then, like everyone, became an out-of-work actor and a waiter.

"I ended up writing a play that I put on in London Fringe. It was a one-man show. It was a mixture of my words, other people's songs and some poetry that I had written and had published in some London magazines. I used that as my own graduation."

Now the founder and director of his own entertainment agency, Excess All Areas, Martin spends a lot of time behind the scenes creating the stage magic and was recently named 'best producer' at the London Fringe Report Awards 2012.

But the performer's big break couldn't have been any less 'behind the scenes' as he quickly became known by his alter-ego, Trinity Million.

He said: "I was working in a bar in Old Compton Street at the time and two drag queens came in and I had a good chat with them and told them I was an actor. Their reply was to tell me that they were in need of some new drag showgirls for their act.

"Two weeks later, I was wearing a corset and became a showgirl. It was great – I learned



everything there and ended up being a drag queen for about seven years, playing at different venues in the West End.

"The thing about drag is that it gives you a tremendous amount of power regarding some

of the things you can get away with saying. If you were standing there saying this while dressed as a bloke you would probably get punched, so it gives you a lot of confidence."

It was during his days as Trinity Million that Paul L Martin appeared on TV shows with the likes of Michael Barrymore as well as getting parts in musicals including Angels, Punks And Raging Queens and Ruthless as well as creating the role of Philip Salon for the Boy George musical Taboo.

"It was when I started travelling that I hung up my dress. I did shows in New York at the famous Don't Tell Mama bar. I went on to perform in Berlin, Rome and Paris doing pure cabaret."

But even when travelling the globe, Martin is close to his roots in the Garden of England.

He said: "My family are all still in Kent. My mum and my sister run an antiques shop in St Nicholas at Wade in Thanet, and others live in Greenhill. So I am still tied to the county and I have many fond memories of growing up here.

"I am always heading back to see the family, plus myself and my husband have been thinking about buying a house in Margate and we are very excited about the regeneration of that area."

Having recently organised the London Cabaret Awards, Martin has been heralded for his work in helping the resurgence of stage art in the capital. However, arguably one of his most high-profile roles is looming just a few weeks away.

He said: "I will be hosting the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Battersea Park. There is obviously a very special flotilla heading down the Thames with the Queen onboard and the celebrations happen after that. It will be really exciting and completely free."

■ Paul L Martin's Bigger Than... airs on Sky Living channel 107. Visit www.paulmartin.com for more information about the man.

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

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features@kosmedia.co.uk

Arabian night was different but lacked that vital spark

BEING different can be a double-edged sword in today's competitive eating-out marketplace.

After all, get it wrong and the chances are the discerning diner never darkens your hand-towels again and takes his business elsewhere.

But get it right and it can deliver an ever-increasing stream of customers through your doors, armed with recession-busting cash.

Yet being different in Canterbury is no easy task. As perhaps the county's most cosmopolitan of hubs, there is barely a variety of food that is not served up in one of its many restaurants.

Azouma, however, looks to catch the eye by offering an authentic experience that extends to more than just food. What it tries to achieve is the deliverance of a little slice of Moroccan sun or Arabian warmth on a gloomy Friday night.

And it gets so close to achieving it that you cannot help but be rather won over.

Because, even aside from the starters and the mains, those who want to buy into the Arabic lifestyle can eat, drink and then go and sit outside and puff on a shisha pipe while sipping a cocktail or pot of mint tea.

Close your eyes and use your imagination and the streets of the city can almost become the crowded lanes of the souks of Marrakesh as you sit there puffing away.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



You have to give Azouma 10 out of 10 for effort. Situated just outside the city walls – and away from the main hordes of tourists – stepping inside does feel a little like walking into another world. The décor is very Moroccan: thick tables, comfy chairs, lots of cushions and drapes.

So on to the food. The good news is that the variety is wide, with plenty for vegetarians, and all rooted in the culture it aims to emulate. There are tagine dishes, couscous, mezze, grilled fish and charcoal dishes all lovingly prepared.

Sharing a vegetarian mixed mezze (£10.95) set a good benchmark. Crisp, crunchy Lebanese fried bread, tasty falafels and light spring rolls

were plentiful and served in authentic dishes where hands were the cutlery. The menu gave a handy bit of background and history of the traditions.

For the main course, pan-roasted prawns (£13.95) cooked on a bed of potato and topped with cream, coconuts and cheeses packed a powerful punch, while the lamb shish kebab (£10.95) featured tender, tasty marinated meat.

We missed dessert, opting instead for cocktails and mint tea on the terrace with a shisha pipe. Not a healthy option, granted, but it was rather fun. It also provided a very different ending to an evening dining out – something to be applauded.

There was, however, a big 'but' to all of this. Amid the effort and the interesting food, the atmosphere, at least on this visit, was almost non-existent. It craved some life, a little louder music... anything just to inject a bit of zing.

But when the total bill only just topped the £50 mark and included two soft drinks, a cocktail, mint tea, shisha and two courses for two, you could hardly argue with the value.

Chris Thomson

■ **Azouma Restaurant, 4 Church Street, St Pauls, Canterbury CT1 1NH.**
Telephone 01227 760076

AA rosette award is just desserts for patron Dev

THE Ambrette restaurant in Margate has won an AA rosette under head chef and patron Dev Biswal, pictured.

The award was given to the Indian-cuisine eatery after a team of AA inspectors recognised its ability to "serve food prepared with care, understanding and skill, using good-quality ingredients" and achieve "standards that stand out in their local area".

Biswal said: "We've been featured in most of the UK's leading restaurant guides for some time now, but an AA rosette is one accolade that has eluded us."

The chef grew up in Calcutta and trained at the Dubai Sheraton before moving to London in 2003 for spells at Mangoes and Eriki. He became a partner in The Indian Princess in Margate in December 2006, becoming patron and rebranding it as The Ambrette in 2010.

Biswal's second Ambrette restaurant opened in Rye in December 2011 and is located in the historic White Vine House.

The updated AA Restaurant Guide 2013, to be published in September, will feature more than 1,900 restaurants, rated and awarded rosettes by AA inspectors.

With detailed write-ups on each restaurant, the guide is valued highly by Britain's food-lovers.

■ **For more information, log on and visit**
www.theambrette.co.uk.



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FOOD & DRINK

Around the world: Six of the Best



The Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...

Take the family out for the popular Sunday lunch, where you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 or three courses for £15.50. Choose from meats including pork, lamb and beef.

How to book...

The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

No distance for rich taste of the exotic

IT IS widely known that the British are quite fond of a spicy curry. So much so, in fact, that it has been adopted as one of our national dishes. The foods, flavours and cooking techniques in the UK are just some of the benefits of our multicultural society. With new nationalities come new dishes and, inevitably, new restaurants.

A quick glance at the Kent countryside and coastal resorts may have you thinking that the only meal available here is the very British roast dinner or traditional fish and chips... you would be very wrong.

Long gone are the days when an exotic meal out consisted of two choices... Chinese or Indian. Kent is now blessed with a diverse range of foreign foods, including Mexican, Nepalese, Thai, Italian, French, Greek or even

Russian! Never before have so many nationalities had the traditional foods of their heritage available to us all, whenever we want them.

And that means that never before have there been so many options from which diners can choose. The best thing for chefs in all of Kent's restaurants, no matter what nationality, is the range of local produce that can be harvested and used for so many wonderful dishes.

From the classically British fisherman's pie to the exotic and spicy king prawn Madras, from the gravy-covered roast beef to the chilli chicken fajita, Kent has both the ingredients and the know-how for all.

But just in case you are worried by the range of choices available, or you just can't choose which continent to try out, here are six absolute crackers!



Gurkha Palace Folkestone

Why here...

Try an authentic taste of Nepal with regional cuisines. The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, so it's no surprise to learn that Gurkha Palace's menu is vast.

On the menu...

Excellent food has seen it nominated as the best Nepalese restaurant in the country by the Good Food Guide. Highly commended by Channel Chamber in best customer-service awards.

How to book...

97 Enbrook Valley (Golden Valley shopping centre), Folkestone CT20 3NE
phone: 01303 257700



Empress of India Sittingbourne

Why here...

The brother of Maharani opened in 1992 and still maintains the level of experience and quality food. Empress has recently upgraded the restaurant with a modern Indian royal décor. Bring your loved ones, family and friends for all occasions. There are large spaces, and round tables can seat 11 people. You can watch big sporting events live at Empress and not miss out.

On the menu...

You will feel very welcome in the presence of the owner Babul – ask him to surprise you with a special dish and he will not disappoint. Try the Chicken Tikka Babul, named by the owner himself, a house favourite and best-seller. Also try the new best-selling lager Mongoose. There is also a selection of cocktails.

How to book...

Empress of India, 24 East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 4RT; phone: 01795 431155; Facebook: Empressofindia Sittingbourne

Surin Ramsgate

Why here...

Surin serves an array of authentic Thai, Lao and Cambodian cuisine using local produce. The eatery has also been highly recommended by both The Guardian and Kent Life magazine.

On the menu...

Surin is open from at lunch from Tuesday to Saturday 12.30pm-2.30pm. During the evening the restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday 6pm-11pm. It is also open for Sunday bank-holiday dinners.

How to book...

Harbour Street, Ramsgate (five minutes from the harbour)
phone: 01843 592001; web: www.surinrestaurant.co.uk



Maharani Sittingbourne

Why here...

The Maharani is one of the most popular Indian restaurants in Swale and the first to have opened in Sittingbourne. The in-house team has the expertise of the original owners as well as the same chef from the day the venue opened, in 1980.

There is a cosy atmosphere, with warm and friendly service. There are plenty of traditional dishes and special cuisine for everyone to try.

On the menu...

Try the balti chicken tikka pathia methi or the mouthwatering karai chicken tikka rani, the special dish made using great-grandmother's recipe passed down the generations! Choose from the range of Indian lagers including the famous Bangla beer and fine wine from the drinks menu.

How to book...

Maharani Indian Restaurant, 24 West Street, Sittingbourne ME10 1AP; phone: 01795 424515; Facebook: Maharani Sittingbourne



Oriental Buffet Tonbridge

Why here...

The Oriental Buffet has been under new management since January and offers the chance to feast on all your favourite cuisines. "Quality without compromise" is the key for new owner Kishore Papkota.

On the menu...

With more than 50 items to choose from and five styles of cuisine, there is something for everyone. No arguing about whether to go for an Indian or Chinese, Thai or Nepalese – here you can try it all.

How to book...

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

It's Saturday knight Hever Sport of kings

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
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www.hevercastle.co.uk

HENRY VIII is inviting everyone to celebrate at Hever Castle as Sir Samuel of Hever is knighted. The ceremony in mid-July marks the start of the annual jousting tournament at which spectators will be treated to exciting displays of action, falls and fights as the knights of royal England bring the medieval sport to life. The tournaments continue over summer-holiday weekends, some including Fridays. July 21-22 and 27-29 and August 10-12, 17-19 and 24-25 all feature events. Each tournament starts when the king and queen arrive at



the castle at 2pm and invite them to the jousting arena. The jousts begin at about 2.15pm and last an hour. Support your chosen knight as the thrill of the joust takes place in an

arena complete with royal box. Visitors can tour the gardens, once the childhood haunt of Anne Boleyn. The gardens open at 10.30am and the castle itself opens at midday.



Cultivating culture Gardens and history

Beech Court Gardens, Ashford
Saturday, May 19
01233 740735; www.beechcourtgardens.co.uk

VISITORS to Beech Court in Challock can enjoy guided spring walks around the gardens, including strolls through the attractive viburnum walk. The walk is free with garden admission and visitors can hear about the garden's history and wildlife while admiring mature rhododendrons and azaleas, which will also be at their peak. The gardens surround a 14th-century farmhouse and the site dates back to Saxon times, suggested by the discovery of Roman swords and artefacts. Guided tours start at 2.30pm.

What can be done? 'Save the species' is in focus at animal park

Howletts, Bekesbourne
Open daily from 9.30am-6pm
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

CRITICALLY-ENDANGERED species will be the focus of this month's visitor themes at Howletts Wild Animal Park. Animal fans can embark on a journey of discovery to learn what can be done to help the survival of awesome species like the Sumatran tiger. Throughout the month, visitors will be able to follow self-guided trails, take part in quizzes and enjoy educational talks while discovering how to help protect endangered species. Animal director Neil Spooner said: "May's theme is very close to our hearts, while the quizzes and trails are a fun way to highlight the importance of conservation and the work that we do here in conjunction with The Aspinall Foundation." The animal park is home to endangered animals like western lowland gorillas and black rhinos.

The dames of Dickens Maid Miriam

Dickens World, Chatham
Saturday, July 17, at 8pm
01634 890421
www.dickensworld.co.uk

BLACKADDER and Harry Potter actress Miriam Margolyes stars in a highly-rated play heading to Chatham. Dickens' Women was devised by the actress alongside

director Sonia Fraser as part of this year's celebrations for the bicentenary of the author. The Olivier Award-nominated production will play at the Britannia Theatre in Dickens World as part of its year-long world tour that includes seasons at the Sydney Opera House, Jaipur Literary Festival in India and New York's legendary Morgan Library. Margolyes portrays 23 of Dickens's best-loved characters, from doe-eyed young heroines and brow-beating old harriidans to men and midgets.



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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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One Love, many stars Reggae and Riddlers

The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

Friday to Saturday, August 10-12
0843 224 9001

www.onelovefestival.co.uk

FUN Lovin' Criminals duo Fast and Frank Benbini have confirmed that they will be headlining the One Love Festival.

The pair, known as Radio Riddlers, are famous for their New York rap group, with Huey Morgan having hits like Scooby Snacks and Loco. They will be showcasing their forthcoming album, an alternative production of Prince's Purple Rain LP entitled Purple Reggae.

The fifth annual One Love Festival will celebrate 50 years of Jamaican independence as well as host top names from the reggae world. Straight from the Caribbean, reggae legend Freddie McGregor and dance-hall king Frankie Paul will be featuring at The Hop Farm.

Bard to verse The absurdity of life.. in song

St John's Church, Meopham

Thursday, May 24, at 8pm

Tickets £15

twokettles@hotmail.co.uk

MUSICIAN Martyn Joseph and his poet sidekick Stewart Henderson will be appearing for the first time at St John's Church at Meopham later this month.

The singer has been described as "the Welsh Woody Guthrie" due to his easy rapport with audiences, humour and ability to make all feel at home. Joseph has toured all over the world and has a real pedigree, having appeared alongside artists such as Art Garfunkel, Shirley Bassey, Celine Dion and Jools Holland.

Poet Henderson, with whom Joseph has worked for 20 years, tells of "the passion, absurdity and terrible joy of being alive." Expect an evening of song, verse and thought-provoking rants.



Crafty stuff See a range of talented folk

Penshurst Place, Tonbridge

Saturday to Monday, May 5-7
01425 277988

www.ichf.co.uk

THE famous Weald of Kent Craft Show hits Penshurst Place this bank holiday with some of the best exhibits in the region.

Set in the picturesque surrounds near Tonbridge, the show will offer the finest handmade crafts to spruce up your home and garden as well as countryside pursuits and delectable cuisine from regional exhibitors.

There will be more than 250 craftspeople to see, including the highly-rated garden experts of Chilstone of Tunbridge Wells showing off their special Diamond Jubilee patriotic garden ideas.

Keeping the royal theme, This Art Of Mine, a studio near Maidstone, will be at the show offering a celebratory community-craft experience. Adult tickets cost £6.50, with children under 16 entering free.



Leaping stars The future of British ballet

The Churchill, Bromley

Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20

Tickets from £11 to £26

www.atgtickets.com/bromley

THE English National Ballet production of My First Sleeping Beauty will pirouette on to the stage at The Churchill Theatre this month. Following the success of the

Angelina Ballerina ballets, which reached audiences across the UK and Europe, English National Ballet in partnership with English National Ballet School is continuing the initiative to bring ballet to young audiences. The show is performed by the third-year students from English National Ballet School in their first professional tour, so it will be a first for both audiences and performers. My First Sleeping Beauty is choreographed and designed by award-winning choreographer Matthew Hart.

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STAGE & ARTS

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It's a labour of love for fans Hue And Cry

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Sunday, May 13, at 8pm
01474 337774
www.gravesham.gov.uk

SCOTTISH hip-funkateers Hue and Cry return to the stage with a new tour and a new album to boot.

This year heralds the release of Hot Wire, the first new album from brothers Pat and Greg Kane since 2008's Open Soul.

As Scottish as they come, Hue And Cry leapt to prominence in 1987 when their single Labour Of Love hit the No 6 slot. The immensely-successful album Remote and further hit singles Violently and Looking For Linda followed as Hue And Cry cemented their position as intellectual soul-pop pioneers. The new record, Hot Wire, combines a love of Stevie Nicks as well as including songs reminiscent of Stevie Wonder, Sly And The Family Stone and early New Orleans-inspired funk. Expect the lads to play a few old classics, too.



Life is pain but can still be fun Alan Davies

The Orchard, Dartford
Tuesday, October 2, 8pm
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

COMEDIAN and actor Alan Davies has announced a date in Kent as part of his stand-up tour. The funnyman, known for his appearances on highbrow

panel show QI, has come back to the stage more than 10 years after his last comedy circuit.

Davies, who also played iconic BBC detective Jonathan Creek, has been in hot water recently and found himself in the papers after comments regarding the Hillsborough football tragedy.

The mop-top comedian, who has also appeared in BBC drama series Hotel Babylon, will bring the show Life Is Pain to The Orchard Theatre later in the year. Tickets, priced at £25, are on sale now.



The gods of folk-rock Fairport Convention

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

Sunday, May 6
01227 831493
www.folkinthebarn.co.uk

FOLK-ROCK legends Fairport Convention will be celebrating their 45th anniversary in Canterbury next month.

Formed in 1967's 'summer of love', Fairport Convention have been hailed as the originators of British folk-rock music and contributors to the fantastic Canterbury scene.

The 2012 anniversary tour will feature songs from the band's recent studio album, the critically-acclaimed Festival Bell. But with such a long history, the band have a vast repertoire from which to draw, so this year the gigs will include a selection of favourite songs and tunes chosen through a poll of the band's fans. Tickets are priced at £18.

A mad old life Suggs shares his memoirs

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Tuesday, October 9
0844 871 3015
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

MADNESS star Suggs heads back to Kent to tell the story of his life later this year. The much-talked-about tour hits Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall in October and tickets are

expected to sell fast. Suggs said: "I've just turned 50, the kids have left home and my cat just died."

It was this sad event that triggered the frontman to go on a quest to discover what happened to the father he never knew.

Stunned by what he learnt, Suggs was taken back to his childhood on the streets of 1970s Soho and his first appearance on Top Of The Pops at the age of 18.

Is it a play? Is it stand-up comedy? Is it music hall? Whatever it is, hold on to your seats!



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FUN BY THE SEA

A thrilling outing for all in traditional Margate



EUROPE'S largest mobile theme park is coming to Thanet this summer with an exciting range of thrills and rides.

Giant inflatables, fairground fun, water boats, stalls and games are all included in the attraction, which will be on offer at the Dreamland site, close to the beach in picturesque Margate.

In all, there are more than 25 fantastic rides for families and friends to see, while many of the other attractions have special offers for thrill-seekers.

The funpark is sure to make summer in Margate go with a swing as the resort goes back to the glory days of Dreamland.

The seaside site was one of the most popular places to spend a summer evening throughout the 70s and 80s, with its combination of a great beach and traditional cafés, bars and restaurants.

As a holiday destination, Margate became popular with Londoners, portrayed so memorably in the Jolly Boys' Outing episode of Only Fools And Horses as well as by cockney singers Chaz and Dave in their classic hit Down To Margate.

The classic scenic-railway roller-coaster, the big wheel and Dreamland became synonymous with the traditional seaside holiday down in Thanet.

But the rides visiting Margate this summer will be bang up to date, giving customers all the excitement of state-of-the-art thrilling experiences.

Monday to Thursday each week sees customers able to get a premium wristband, giving unlimited rides and visits to all the rides and funhouses for half-price if another is bought at full price.

There are offers, too, for family tickets as well as single parents.

Opening times are 1pm-9pm at weekends and bank holidays and 5pm-9pm on weekdays. The attractions are open until Sunday, May 13.

FOOD AND DRINK

Style with substance at city's stunning Abode Hotel

THE Michael Caines Restaurant is the stunning centrepiece of Abode Canterbury food and beverage operations.

The beautifully-designed dining room, which offers 72 covers, combines classic elegance with modern style. There is the glass-fronted Wine Room, private Chef's Table in the kitchen area and the classy Champagne and Cocktail Bar – it really does offer a stunning addition to the Canterbury dining scene.

The Michael Caines Champagne and Cocktail Bar has quickly become one of Canterbury's most fashionable and popular places. The setting is picturesque,

the city-centre location convenient day or night, and the Champagnes and cocktails arguably the best in town.

Sometimes all you want is a simple, freshly-prepared sandwich and a glass of wine, Champagne or just a freshly-brewed pot of tea... it will cater for all needs.

The Michael Caines Champagne and Cocktail Bar offers a discreet venue to meet friends or colleagues, have just a drink, or also a quick and informal bite far from the bustle of Canterbury's busy city centre and shopping precincts.

The Old Brewery Tavern looks back in history, but it is wholly contemporary in

design, outlook, approach and style. The striking sliding-glass windows that allow the team to open to the sunshine whenever it may appear and the decked beer garden and bar offer a great place for a drink in the summer.

There is also a comfortable, more discreet lounge area with a warm modern fireplace, while wooden tables and chairs in the central area retain the feel of traditional British pub.

During the evenings, the atmosphere can once again change completely, with more mood lighting unveiling live music and DJ nights for a real party.



HEALTH AND ADVICE

It's easy to take care of your smile... here's how



THE social effects of wearing dentures can be devastating whatever your age; nobody likes to think that they don't have their own teeth.

People associate dentures with the more mature person, but you would be surprised at the age-span in reality. You can lose a tooth at any age through an accident or through infection.

At Canterbury Dentures the team always put patients' needs first and is very sensitive to each client, always advising the best treatment tailored for them.

This sometimes could mean a referral for implants, and if the team thinks that this is

the best option for the client, then that is what will be advised.

Canterbury Dentures knows how important cosmetically your teeth are and if you lose your tooth or your denture, or it's in need of repair, it will endeavour to turn denture replacements around in a short period of time, with repairs in one hour.

Patients can contact directly or request a referral from their dentist.

At Canterbury Dentures you will be seen by Peter, who is the clinical technician. He will make your denture and guide you through every stage and give you that all-important one-to-one personal attention.

The process for receiving a denture is as follows:

Firstly, initial consultation to see the client's requirements and needs and to discuss a treatment plan.

Secondly, impressions of the teeth and mouth will need to be taken.

Thirdly, there will be fittings and any needed adjustments dealt with before the personal after-care is finally offered.

Canterbury Dentures is open Monday to Friday from 9am-4pm and on Saturday mornings by appointment only. Home visits are made within a 10-mile radius of Canterbury. Phone 01227 781188.

ADVENTURE

Hit the road for excitement with a little help from TC

HERNE Bay's TC Motorhome & Caravan Centre offers expert advice and great deals on new and used motorhomes and touring caravans designed for the more adventurous among us.

At its purpose-built facility in Hillborough, Herne Bay, the TC team has more than 100 motorhomes available for purchase at any one time, making it one of the largest dealerships in the UK and well worth a visit.

All of the vehicles on sale are prepared to the highest standards, with the team's very own NCC-approved Habitation and Mechanical workshop facilities providing

the peace of mind that both the customer and TC itself demand of their vehicles.

So whether it would be the first time you are venturing into motorhome, campervan or caravan ownership, or you are a seasoned user, TC believes that it can cater for all tastes and preferences.

TC Motorhomes is the appointed representative for selling new motorhomes, caravans and campervans for a number of top names in the business. Just some of the brands available include Bailey, CI Caravans International, Rollerteam, Trigano-Tribute, Swift, Escape and Tribute Coachbuilt Motorhomes.

The team at TC believes in its mission statement: "From the quality preparation and presentation that each vehicle receives, to the attentive professional staff members that make TC Motorhomes 'tick'... there is a level of attention provided throughout that ensures our customers will want to shop again at TC Motorhomes."

TC Motorhomes can be found in Sweechbridge Road, Hillborough, Herne Bay CT6 6TE (phone 01227 289111).

Opening times are Monday to Friday 8.30am-6pm, Saturday 8.30am-5pm and Sunday by appointment only (bank holidays 10am-4pm).



IT'S BANK HOLIDAY!

Enjoy all that springtime in Kent has to offer

IT'S A bank-holiday weekend, so now is the perfect time to use that extra day off and explore just what the Garden of England has to offer.

Whether it's the joys of the open fields and the downs, sandy beaches and cliffs, historic towns and cities or castles, or gardens and stately homes, a ride out will take you to some of the finest attractions that southern England has to offer.

Bluebells flower in May and the beautiful blue-carpeted woods are a true feature of Kent and one of spring's most magical sights.

The National Trust publishes details on its website of where to find the best bluebell walks in its properties – but there are also many sites in natural woodland that provide a feast for the senses.

Walking is the perfect springtime weekend pursuit, when it's not too

hot for a brisk stroll but also not too cold to sit outside in a beer garden and enjoy a meal and drink while taking in the scenery.

How about taking in one of the county's highly-commended vineyards and enjoying a taste of Kent's award-winning wines?

Most vintages come from around the Weald, but there also others near Folkestone and Canterbury, with many offering tastings and tours.

It's the season when the county's stately homes and attractions are open, and with crowds fewer in number than for the rest of the holiday period it's the perfect time to take it all in at your leisure.

How about a journey by steam train to take in the views? Lines in the Weald and across Romney Marsh take in wonderful views.

Whatever you do this bank holiday, be sure to enjoy the springtime.



TRANQUIL: Bedgebury has great walks



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www.doddingtonplacegardens.co.uk Telephone 01795 886101

HOMES

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County an attractive first-time proposition

HEMPSTEAD Valley, Dartford and Bexleyheath have been identified among the UK's property hot-spots for those looking to get their foot on the housing ladder.

According to online service Experian PropertyCheck, first-time buyers have been flocking to these areas.

The top 10 first-time buyer hot-spots in the UK are:

- 1) Milton Keynes
- 2) Dartford
- 3) Swindon

- 4) Aldershot
- 5) Hempstead Valley
- 6) Basingstoke
- 7) Crawley
- 8) Slough
- 9) Bexleyheath
- 10) Aylesbury

Peter Turner, managing director of Experian Interactive, said: "In spite of difficulties across the country in getting that first foot on the property ladder, online indicators suggest the market is improving for first-time buyers."

Year-on-year searches for 'first-time buyer mortgage' were up eightfold and searches for '95 per cent mortgages for first-time buyers' more than doubled in the last 12 months.

"For many first-time buyers, raising the necessary deposit to secure a mortgage involves many years of hard work and sacrifice."

"One of the benefits of the Experian PropertyCheck service is that it's about more than just house prices."

Homeowners bullish about future cost of their property

POSITIVE signals have emerged for the housing market in the first quarter of 2012, with a rise in the number of British homeowners who expect house prices to climb over the next six months.

According to the latest Zoopla.co.uk Housing Market Sentiment Survey, two out of three British homeowners (66 per cent) are confident of house prices rising by the autumn.

This is the highest proportion of homeowners predicting property-price growth since the first half of 2010, and in stark contrast to sentiment at the end of 2011, when only 55 per cent of owners were predicting prices to climb.

In addition to the rise in overall confidence, homeowners are also more bullish now about how much they expect average house prices to rise over the next six months.

At the end of 2011, owners expected prices in their area to increase 2.2 per cent on average.

Over the last quarter, this has risen to 3.9 per cent – again, the highest price growth expectation in almost two years.

Confidence among homeowners in London is at a near all-time high, with 82 per cent of property-owners in the capital now confident of property price rises over the next six months.

And owners in the capital are predicting that house prices in London will grow 5.5 per cent by October.

There has also been an improvement in sentiment towards mortgage financing, with an increase in the number of property-owners reporting that it is now easier to secure a mortgage than it was at the end of 2011.



A total of 17 per cent of respondents believe mortgage availability has improved, up from 11 per cent last quarter.

Nicholas Leeming, of Zoopla.co.uk, said: "The property market has been in need of some positive news of late as many indicators have pointed toward stagnant prices."

"These results show that homeowners now feel a lot more positive than at the end of last year, and this confidence could bolster transaction and activity levels as we move further into the year."

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We are always on the lookout for new opportunities in order to satisfy the requirements of our clients on our extensive database and would be pleased to hear from you with any potential sites for development.



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Site with planning or potential for either one or two detached houses within a 15 mile radius of Tunbridge Wells
Budget £600,000-£1million



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4 acres of partially used allotments in the village of Hawley for investment, continued use or other purposes, subject to planning



Bromley - Offers Invited

A Grade II listed building with planning for office use with 15 rooms and large showroom and parking, suitable for other uses STP



Orpington - Offers Invited

Former pub with potential to convert into apartments or to redevelop the entire site, available unconditionally or subject to planning



Broadstairs - Guide Price £7.5 million

Site of approx. 4.7 acres with planning for 13 substantial detached houses with sea views

WANTED NEAR SEVENOAKS

Single building plot in rural area set in grounds of at least 1 acre and with views over countryside and planning for a detached house of approx 3,500 sq ft



Wingham - Guide Price £500,000

Site totalling approx. 10 acres with the benefit of a Certificate of Lawful Use/Development available subject to planning



Tonbridge - Guide Price £425,000

Site with planning for a pair of semi-detached 3 bed houses and a detached 3 bed house backing onto the River Medway



Brenchley - Offers Invited

Single plot approaching 1 acre with planning for a substantial detached house and views over open countryside



Tovil - Guide Price £750,000

Site with planning for three contemporary houses with river frontage and mooring (to include existing 3 bed property)

Land Sales

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Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only

Portin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP5-K05

£99pp

25 to 28 May, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

Portin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a choice of bar and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main



facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

Mamma Mia, What a Party!

Well organised good entertainment, great food - Mrs McCord of Reddishale
Good value no kids or teenagers - Mr Long of Surbiton
Adults only good fun and atmosphere - Mrs Davies of Nottinghamshire
Friendly atmosphere, good company - no children - Mr Gardner of Kent

The whole weekend was brilliant. Thank you - Mrs Ferguson of Essex
Entertainment brilliant - well done - Mrs Miskell of Suffolk
Value for money, good service throughout our stay, staff all very helpful and friendly - Mr Setters of Kent

What GN Holidays' customer's said about their Mamma Mia Party at Portin's Pakefield in May

Italian Lakes: Como & Maggiore

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

9 days, semi-all-inclusive

Quote CO6/9-K05

From £1049pp

8 June & 28 Sept, 2012

This super holiday to Italy starts with a glass of bubbly at St Pancras famous Champagne Bar, before travelling by Eurostar and TGV train via Paris to Lugano, near Lake Como. In Italy, enjoy our all inclusive hotel, included excursions and the opportunity to ride on the famous Bernina Express scenic railway.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in
- Return Eurostar and TGV train travel London St Pancras to Lugano (from Ashford & Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris



outbound
• 7 nights at the 3-star Britannia Excelsior Hotel by Lake Como on an all-inclusive basis

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Subject to availability by GNHolidays

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Air Holiday - 8 days

semi-all-inclusive

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2, 6, 9, 13 & 16 October 2012

In a stunning Mediterranean garden setting, the Valamar Club sits on the shores of the Adriatic just a few minutes from the magic of Dubrovnik's old quarter. The hotel's incredible range of facilities and activities include aerobics,

table tennis and swimming plus diving, sailing and waterskiing from the shores of Copacabana beach.

INCLUDED:

- Return flights from Gatwick to Dubrovnik as shown above
- 7 nights at the Hotel Valamar Club, Dubrovnik, with breakfast, lunch & dinner each day including beer, wine, soft drinks & coffee with lunch & dinner
- Full activities & entertainment programme
- All transfers in Croatia



Venice Florence & Tuscan Highlights

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

10 days

Quote TM9-K05

From £1149pp

17 September, 2012

Join us for an Italian odyssey which takes in extraordinary Venice and the best of Tuscany. Our journey

begins at St Pancras famous Champagne Bar before an afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris and overnight train to Venice in a private 2 berth cabin. We then spend 1 night in Venice and 8 nights in Montecatini with all excursions included.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras & afternoon departure (from Ashford/Ebbsfleet on request)
- Return Eurostar train to Paris and overnight train to/from Italy in private 2 berth cabin
- 1 night half board in Venice Lido
- 6 nights 4-star half board in Montecatini
- Guided walking tours of Venice & Florence
- Visits to Lucca, Florence, Pisa, San Gimignano, Portofino & Bologna
- All transfers abroad



Isle of Wight Come Dancing Party

For over 40s only

Warner Berridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

£259pp

Quote BX1-K05

11 to 14 January, 2013

Popular demand has ensured our Berridge Come Dancing break will be back in 2013. Once again places are limited to 200 dance participants with private and exclusive admission

to all our dance tuition and events in the spacious dance hall. Enjoy Ballroom and Latin dancing, dance sessions for beginners and improvers, top dancers in cabaret, social dancing every evening and a Gala Ball on Saturday night. You will also have access to all the Warner entertainment and facilities at Berridge during the weekend plus free drinks every night.

INCLUDED:

- Free bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & more
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MOTORING NEWS

- Mazda CX-5 makes strides in fuel economy
- Rapid response as Skoda takes on rivals
- Price is right with Hyundai's new-look i20



Toyota's tiny Yaris hybrid promises big impact on eco sector

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By **Sam Davison**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HENRY VIII scared the clergy witless but argued that one should never frighten the horses.

Peugeot took up this same cry after shrewdly incorporating soccer-star Michael Owen's five-star Manor House racing stables in Cheshire into a launch of its 508RXH hybrid.

Normal cars are forbidden to drive through the stable blocks there, but, thanks to the hybrid's silent electric zero-emission or ZEV mode, not one equine head was shaken as my Peugeot ghosted through.

The gee-gees also enjoyed a bit of racing competition, too, when we were invited to utilise the car's all-wheel-drive alongside the training gallops. Despite heavy going after driving rain, the 508RXH coped magnificently.

Indeed, the only ones likely to be scared by this clever new multi-role estate car from the French marque are other beefy load-luggers offering all-wheel-drive, such as the Audi A4 Allroad, Volvo XC70 and Subaru Outback.

For it presents a strong financial case thanks to the pioneering diesel-electric powertrain, which made its debut just a few weeks earlier on the Peugeot 3008 Hybrid4.

Like that car, the 508RXH can function as electric car, fuel-sipping/lower-emission diesel, or AWD workhorse – the diesel powers the front wheels while the electric motor deals with the rear.

It looks the part with its higher ground clearance, wider track, extra protection and smart alloys. It can walk the talk, too, with a total of 200bhp on tap from the 163bhp diesel and 37bhp electric motor, delivering 0-62mph in 9.5 seconds, yet this big plush estate returns an official 68.9mpg on the combined cycle.

Priced from a keen £33,695, the tax benefits are an even better form guide; apart from being in the lowest payable road-tax bracket – zero in year one and £30 thereafter – it also attracts 12 per cent Benefit-in-Kind tax against 26 per cent for the equivalent Audi A4 Allroad.

Figures like those engender pragmatism to outweigh the snob appeal of cars like the Audi and Volvo.

Not that the Peugeot concedes much on creature comforts; the interior matches the high standards set recently by Peugeot with lots of spec, including comfy half-leather seats and a trademark full-length glass roof.

Aside from our effort to avoid scaring the horses, ZEV will also have its uses for buyers doing limited local runs – they could cover 2.5 miles at up to 40mph – without help from the engine.

In the real world, though, the diesel and electric motors mix and match to get the driving done as efficiently as possible, with braking energy being recovered to top up the batteries.

The 508RXH feels sure-footed on the road and, apart from some hesitation in the powertrain sometimes, delivers an impressive driving experience as well as a high-quality ride.



PEUGEOT 508RXH
1ST DRIVE

Price: £33,695-£36,000
Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Peugeot 3008 Hybrid4

Peugeot prepares to scare its rivals but leaves horses calm



HORSES FOR COURSES: Peugeot's new 508RXH was put through its paces during a Press launch at footballer Michael Owen's racing stables, where the hybrid more than held its own on some rough terrain

... the colour-coded dashboard trim that mirrors the exterior paint. Peugeot interiors have shot up the rankings, but this was a false step.

... the Peugeot can aspire to the prestige ratings of cars like the Audi, but it's a remarkable car and the tax arguments are strong.

... the styling of the car. The standard 508 estate body is elegant anyway and Peugeot has managed to beef it up in quite a classy way.



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'Mother Volkswagen' lets us court her new soft-top star

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIKE an interfering mother who doesn't think the girl is good enough for her son, VW has meddled in the love story between buyers and the Golf Cabriolet.

The first arrived in 1980 as a popular spin-off from the original Golf hatchback, revitalising the four-seat convertible market and finally killing off the much-loved yet outmoded original Beetle cabriolet.

Perhaps the original 'Golf Cab' was too successful, though, since old mother VW stuck her oar in and kept us waiting for a successor: version one soldiered on through the Mark 2 Golf hatchback period until VW finally allowed a replacement in 1993, based on the Mark 3 hatch, only to make this carry with minor updating before all contact between the Golf Cabrio and its adoring public was severed in 2002, when the new Beetle Cabrio arrived.

That was no substitute: the Golf soft-top had broad appeal, while its Beetle usurper flirted more with the female half of the population.

But the Golf's back now and more desirable than ever, with good looks and a production first for the series – no rollover bar.

Instead, retractable metal pillars spring out automatically behind the rear passenger seats to protect heads should the car roll in an accident.

It's an elegant and potentially expensive solution, yet VW has kept the car's entry price to an attractive £20,735 while making it highly desirable when top down, aided by a steeply-raked but reinforced front screen.

Unlike many soft-tops, the Golf also looks the part in roof-up mode where even motorway cruising reveals what a fantastic noise-reduction job VW has done. The current Golf hatchback came out in 2009 to set new standards in cabin refinement. OK, its 'ragtop' sister simply can't match the hatch here, but VW had a jolly good try and has set new standards for this sector.

VW GOLF CABRIO 2.0 TDI (140PS) SE BLUEMOTION: PRICE £22,260



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Image:	★★★★★
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Reliability:	★★★★
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OPENED UP:

VW has made sure the new Golf Cabriolet retains decent boot space while still being an attractive car in either roof-up or roof-down mode

Perhaps even more surprising is how well passengers fare with the roof down and side windows up – the buffeting is not unpleasant, even at motorway speeds – and the roof lowers and rises quickly and automatically via a single switch just below the armrest.

Of course, retaining a fabric roof means that security is not as good as that of a new-generation folding hard-top model such as the Golf's Eos coupé sister, but it has kept the car's more reasonable price and retained decent boot space – the fabric roof packs down above the load area rather than taking up a good third or more when folded down.

The two rear seats also fold to allow through loading into the cabin – the car should cope with most reasonable trips to the local B&Q.

The dashboard is well made but sober, which adds to the car's unisex appeal, and the seats are comfortable, as I proved on a 200-mile-plus

round trip. However, it's the Golf's traditionally sporty poise that tops its looks, practicality and the expectation of excellent resale value.

Our test car was the eco-star 140PS (138bhp) 2.0-litre BlueMotion (£24,660) capable of an official combined fuel consumption of 62.8mpg yet blessed with decent pulling power and handling, too (0-62mph in 9.9 seconds), but I would also recommend the petrol versions to exploit a nimbleness that contradicts the heavy strengthening needed in any convertible.

It means that with direct steering and smooth crisp gearboxes, including VW's excellent twin-clutch auto/manual DSG – adding about £1,400 to prices versus conventional manuals – the Golf Cabrio can be driven with that sports-car verve.

So it's a hearty welcome back to the Golf Cab and a plea to old mother Veedub – don't keep locking it away from us.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Skyactiv is go with new CX-5

MAZDA launches even more than its all-new CX-5 compact SUV in a couple of weeks' time.

For the stylish newcomer (from £21,395) also pioneers the Japanese marque's Skyactiv technology to drive down fuel consumption and emissions. Emulating premium carmakers like BMW and Mercedes-Benz, Skyactiv is due across all future Mazda models, rather than being a sub-brand or premium option.



Rapid narrows gulf for Skoda

SKODA aims to plug the gap between its Fabia supermini and Octavia family model by launching a VW Golf/Ford Focus rival.

To be called the Rapid – a name last seen on a coupé version of the Estelle saloon built until 1990 – it's due here by late 2012 but already prompting speculation about a move upmarket and size for the next Octavia model.



Eco charms of new-look i20

HYUNDAI has launched a heavily-revised i20 supermini line-up priced below the important £10,000 benchmark.

The new i20 model list (from £9,995) includes a road tax-exempt 1.1-litre diesel engine emitting just 84g/km CO₂ and capable of an official combined fuel consumption of almost 90mpg. As ever, though, the Korean marque's standard five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty will also boost sales.

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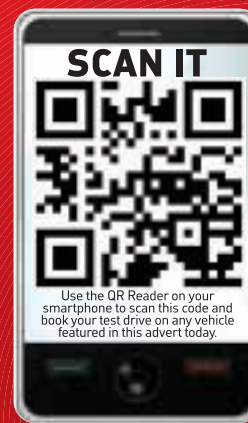
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Toyota unveils new shrink-wrapped hybrid

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HAVING pioneered the hybrid car in the UK, Toyota is now taking orders for the smallest and most affordable.

The five-door petrol-electric Yaris Hybrid supermini arrives on Sunday, July 1, priced from £14,995 – not such a huge jump from its cheapest petrol-only Yaris equivalent at £11,670, though you can get a conventional Yaris three-door, too, from just £11,170.

With CO₂ emissions from 89g/km, the new baby eco-warrior is exempt from road tax, delivers an official combined economy figure of up to 80.7mpg and attracts 10 per cent benefit-in-kind company car tax.

It should appeal to Kent commuters into London particularly by also qualifying for exemption from the London congestion charge.

All of this has been achieved by Toyota shrinking the pioneering hybrid power system already seen on the Prius and smaller Auris hybrids, making it compact and light enough to fit the Yaris without reducing cabin and boot size and affecting its supermini functionality.

The Toyota Hybrid Synergy Drive system uses a 1.5-litre VVT-i petrol engine – the Prius and Auris use a 1.8-litre unit – plus electric motor and CVT (continuously variable transmission) automatic gearbox.

However, the powertrain is not the only reason for higher prices versus a standard Yaris; Toyota has also partnered the futuristic power with a generous spec, so even the T3 entry model



(£14,995) comes with dual-zone air-con, six-speaker sound system, front electric windows and seven airbags.

Mid-range T4 (£15,895) then gets 15-inch alloys, Bluetooth and USB/Aux ports for MP3 and phone connectivity, leather steering-wheel

and gearknob, plus a range of other fine goodies.

The T Spirit range flagship (£16,995) then gets 16-inch alloys, cruise-control, electric windows all round and part-leather seats, among other extra kit.

Buyers can also go for a series of option packs

to further customise their car, including the Toyota Touch And Go pack (£650) adding sat-nav and advanced Bluetooth features, plus access to Google Local Search and connected services such as parking-space availability and fuel-price information and local weather forecasts.

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03 Mini Cooper 1.6 3-dr Hatchback Metallic Pure Silver, 60,932 miles*, Manual, Petrol £4,995
06 Fiat Grande Punto 1.3 16v Multijet 90 Dynamic 3-dr Metallic Alternative Green, 44,500 miles*, Manual, Diesel £3,995
03 Toyota Corolla 1.8 VVT-i T Sport 5-dr Metallic Steel Silver, 69,000 miles*, Manual, Petrol £3,995
03 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Turbo 2-dr Convertible Metallic Carbon Black, 46,000 miles*, Manual, Petrol..... £3,995
03 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Elegance 5-dr Hatchback Mirage, 34,500 miles, Automatic £2,795

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FOOTBALL

No surprise that player with 'limited skills' takes on top job with England

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

ROY Hodgson, the manager, was already a household name before his appointment with England this week, but Roy Hodgson the player, that's a career only the diehard Kent football fan would know anything about, if at all.

The likeable 64-year-old doesn't appear to have changed from the polite, mild mannered player described by those who played with him in the lower leagues and watched him from the terraces in the 1970s.

Born in Croydon he joined his hometown club Crystal Palace, but was released and went on to represent Tonbridge, Maidstone, Gravesend & Northfleet and Ashford Town before jetting out to South Africa with another famous name, Bobby Houghton, in 1973 to play for Berea Park.

His appointment to probably the toughest job in management hasn't come as a surprise to his former team mate Tony Sitford.

The pair played together at Gravesend & Northfleet, now Ebbsfleet United, in 1971, a club which Mr Sitford went on to manage, after a spell at Dartford.

The 73-year-old who still coaches at Corinthian Sports Club, said: "I'm not surprised at all to be honest. He was always interested in it (coaching).

"He would walk into any room and someone would speak to him and he would just be Roy Hodgson, that's why he's done so well because he doesn't put on airs and graces.

"He did everything meticulously well to be

honest. He wasn't the greatest player in the world, he was a very good player but not the best."

Hodgson played at full back and in midfield during his career, and it's in the latter role that Mr Sitford remembers him.

"He liked to get it down and pass the ball, he wasn't an aggressive person or player," he said. "He was mainly our ball player, he was always willing to take the ball, did the simple things very well indeed.

"He could see a pass very quickly, he had good vision. He was a genuine man."

BBC Radio Kent commentator for Ebbsfleet United, Chaz Webster remembers the same person, but from the stands where he watched as a teenager.

"He was a typical non-league player we have all seen so many times," he said. "You could see he thought a lot about his game. His skill set was limited.

"There was no indication that he was to become a world class coach. He played with a smile and was committed and was enthusiastic.

"I would never come away from a game and say what a great player he was, that he illuminated the Stonebridge Road pitch, because he didn't, and the crowd sometimes got on his back.

"He is a decent chap and I think he's going to be a big asset to England after what we have been through with the foreign imports."

Current Maidstone United chairman Bill Williams joined Maidstone after Hodgson had left, but their paths were to cross eventually, and not



Picture: MIKHAIL SLAIN

NO CHANGE:

Roy Hodgson is still the same genuine man he was when playing non-league football in Kent in the 1970s according to those who knew him.

just the once.

Mr Williams went on to manage Durban United in South Africa while Hodgson was a player/coach with Berea Park.

"It was unusual," he said, "In my case I got there because I was head hunted because I was an ex-pro and he went out because basically Bobby was married to a South African girl.

"Whenever I talked to him he was very tactical, interested in coaching all his life, more than the playing side.

"That's come out in his career, that's his forte."

Mr Williams came into contact with him more recently when he sold now Manchester United defender Chris Smalling to Fulham when Hodgson was in charge at Craven Cottage in 2008.

One can only hope his first challenge with England at the Euros this summer can be somewhere near as successful as the cup run he played a part in with Ashford Town in 1972 when they reached the FA Trophy Semi-Final before losing to Scarborough 1-0.

FACTS AND FIGURES

ROY'S CAREER IN KENT

■ **Tonbridge**
1969/70 season.
Joined from Sutton.
Appearances: 26
Goals: 1

■ **Gravesend & Northfleet**
1970/71 season
Appearances: 59 (6 sub)
Goals: 1 in a 2-2 draw at Rugby Town

■ **Maidstone**
1971/72 season
Appearances: 35 (3 sub)
Debut on August 21, 1971 as a sub in 2-0 win against Woodford Town in the Southern League Cup qualifying round
Goals: 2, against Grays Athletic and Bromley.

■ **Ashford Town**
1972/73 season
Appearances: 30 games (15 league, 15 cup)
Goals: 3
Final game was on Boxing day at Hastings when Town lost 3-2.
Left in January 1973 to join Berea Park in South Africa where Bobby Houghton was manager.

MANAGERIAL RECORD

England.....2012-????
West Brom.....2011-12
Liverpool.....2010-11
Fulham.....2007-10
Finland.....2006-07
Viking.....2004-05
U.A.E.....2002-04
Udinese.....2001
Copenhagen.....2000-01
Grasshoppers 1999-2000
Inter Milan.....1999
Blackburn.....1997-98
Inter Milan.....1995-97
Switzerland.....1992-95
Neuchatel Xamax 1990-92
Malmo FF.....1985-89
Orebro.....1983-84
Oddevold.....1982
Bristol City.....1982



Picture: ADY KERRY

FOOTBALL

October away day a painful memory in the career of young full-back Fish

MOST people probably won't remember what happened at 4.28pm on a dreary, wet afternoon in Morecambe on October 29.

But for Gillingham defender Matt Fish it's an all too painful memory.

His side were looking to find their way back into the game with the score at 1-0 in the 68th minute when a miss-timed interception by the right back let Izak Reid race to the bye-line and cut back for Kevin Ellison to double the Shrimps' lead.

Instead of forgetting it the 22-year-old has used it to turn his season around.

He has started the last nine games, and made a man of the match performance in their last home game, a 3-1 win over champions Swindon.

"He nicked it from me, squared it and they scored," he said. "You live and learn, that's the sort of thing that's made me sit up and think I need to grow up, I'm hoping

I've done that.

"It's been a big learning curve this year, I have enjoyed it.

"It made me realise I needed to work on my defensive game. I went and did that on the training ground. The last five games I have come into my own and found my feet."

The former Crystal Palace trainee came to Priestfield last summer after four successful seasons at Dover Athletic.

He made more than 160 appearances at the Crabble Ground where he played under Andy Hessenthaler winning two successive promotions, while also narrowly missing out on the play-offs two seasons running, and while he feels he was well prepared at Dover, he admits it was tough coming back into league football.

"I feel like going down to non-league

gave me the experience I needed, working with ex pros," he said.

"That's helped prepare me for coming back into the league.

"Coming back into full time football was a big step up.

"At Dover where I was for four seasons, after the first couple the fans got to know me and the way I played.

"When I came here I did get a bit of stick at the start, but I'm hoping I have turned the fans around.

"It was going to be tough coming back into the league and getting to know everybody. It's a lot different to non-league.

"You're training every day, it takes its toll on your legs when you just come back into it.

"It was difficult to start off with, I feel like I have grown into it."

HIGH STANDARDS: Matt Fish spurred on by mistake

CRICKET

Bell-Drummond has eye on starting role in squad

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

DANIEL Bell-Drummond's to-do list at Kent this season might be short, but that by no means belittles his ambitions.

The 18-year-old batsmen has firstly firmly set his sights on breaking into Jimmy Adams' squad, and secondly he quite simply wants to hit as many runs as possible.

He has done his chances of achieving both no harm at all after putting in a string of impressive performances for the England Under-19 side during the recent Quadrangular Series in Australia where he amassed 287 runs, averaging more than 57 from five games.

But he knows that the competition for places is stronger than ever at the St Lawrence Ground with the arrival of new players at the start of the season while he was away with England.

"They have brought a lot to the squad, there's a lot of competition for places," he said. "You cannot rest on your laurels, you always have to be on top of your game."

"I can learn from them, especially the experienced guys like Brendan Nash and Mike Powell. They are the kind of role models I want to be like."

While Bell-Drummond is happy to be learning from the new senior pros, he credits new coach Adams for helping his game.

"He's a brilliant coach, he's been there and done it at the top level," he said. "He's a brilliant guy to learn from, especially how he goes about things mentally."

"Everyone has got a lot of respect for him."



Picture: ADY KERRY

LEARNING: Daniel Bell-Drummond is determined to make a name for himself at the St Lawrence

"I think my aim for this season is to cement a regular place in the team and score as many runs as possible, that's all I can do. I want to get into the first team and take my chance."

"It's a brilliant start so far, it just shows what we are capable of. I think we have the ability to do well in all formats of the game."

Although he has missed Kent's unbeaten start, it's not a regret.

"It's a brilliant life-style to have, all the places we went, the weather, it was brilliant, and playing the game I love," he said. "At the end of the day I just get on with it, there are a lot worse things I could be doing."

FOOTBALL

Artificial pitch rolled out at Stones' new £2.6m stadium

DESPITE the disappointment of missing out on the Ryman One South play-offs being barely a week old, Maidstone United are looking forward to an action packed summer.

The finishing touches were put in place on their new 3G artificial pitch at the Gallagher Stadium this week ahead of their move back to the town after decades in exile.

It will almost guarantee there won't be a repeat of the muddy scenes which were played out in their final game at Sittingbourne's Bourne Park last Saturday where they have been for the last eight seasons.

The second piece of good news is that their first match at the new £2.6m stadium on July 14 against Brighton has already sold out of all 2,000 tickets.

Communications manager Ian Tucker said: "The artificial pitch can be used in the Ryman League, although it's not been approved by the Conference as yet."

"I think they are more minded to wait until they are approached about it, rather than pre-empting it."

"They finished it laying it this



THE FUTURE: New pitch rolled out

week, now they have got to knit it together and put the rubber pellets in.

"They need to finish off the main stand, put the seats in, the boxes at the back and then the club house."

The club is hoping to announce more friendlies possibly against Championship opposition.

MOTORSPORT

Jackson leads the way in early rounds of the BTCC

REDSTONE Racing is leading the way in the early rounds of the British Touring Car Championships.

All three of the Kent-based team's cars qualified in the top ten at Hampshire's Thruxton track, with Mat Jackson posting the fourth quickest time, Aaron Smith secured seventh and Liam Griffin clinched his best ever qualifying position in ninth.

Jackson picked up first, third and sixth place finishes in the three races, keeping him top of the drivers' leaderboard.

His team mate Liam Griffin crashed heavily in race one, but his car was repaired in time to finish 17th in the second race, while he finished 12th in the final outing.

And Aaron Smith claimed a seventh, eighth, and 15th place finish over the weekend.

It means that Redstone are also top of the Independent Teams' Trophy, and second in the overall Teams' Championship.

Jackson said: "After the ups and downs of Donington Park it was fantastic to win at Thruxton, especially as we didn't think it was on the cards this weekend with the

Picture: NICK DUNGAN



ON TOP: Mat Jackson leads

circuit being more likely to suit the NGTC cars. It's a great way to go into the break before Oulton Park."

Redstone Racing team manager Oly Collins said: "I think we made the best of some very difficult situations. Qualifying was a great result on Saturday and to add a win was fantastic: Mat drove perfectly."

There will now be a six-week break for the British Touring Car Championship, which returns on June 9/10 at Oulton Park, Cheshire.

The team behind Redstone Racing, Motorbase Performance, will be back in action on May 17-19, when it contests round two of the British GT Championship at Germany's infamous Nürburgring.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Bungle, Zippy but no rainbow

“ON a shortlist of one for the award for the worst line in cinematic history is Andie MacDowell's effort at the end of Four Weddings and A Funeral: "Is it raining? I hadn't noticed."

MacDowell delivers the line like a paroled teenager during a job centre interview when she's supposed to be conveying a sense of joy so profound it renders her oblivious to her environment.

The climatic conditions in that scene were mirrored across Kent last Saturday, and it's a fair bet to say that of the couple of thousand fans who were huddled into the county's football grounds, none managed to achieve the level of transcendental ecstasy supposedly experienced by Ms. MacDowell.

The last day of the season is usually one of high drama, played out in broad, life-affirming sunshine.

Yet the only game with anything really riding on it was at Bourne Park, where Maidstone stood an approximately one in 20 chance of reaching the play-offs.

They needed to beat Bognor, who stood a similarly slim chance of winning the Ryman 1 South title, by two goals and hope Godalming lost to Eastbourne.

It was all pretty unlikely, but the lure of tickets for Maidstone's stadium-opening friendly with Brighton pulled in around 400 "home" fans, 200 or more came up from Sussex and there was a hefty number of neutrals.

The man on the wheels of steel, Ian Tucker, played Mr Blue Sky by ELO and U2's Beautiful Day, from his seat in the press area, where the table was covered by half an inch of water and ungloved hands were so cold it took five minutes to tweet any score flashes.

Even if you cowered at the back of the stand or stood on the lee side of the perimeter fencing there was no escape.

This wasn't mere rain.

It was like being sprayed by a dozen jet hoses during quarantine.

A gale blasted across the Swale and as a result the chill factor plunged to mid-winter levels.

On the sidelines a couple were dressed as Zippy and Bungle, the only two people in the ground to uphold the tradition of final day fancy dress.

The game itself turned after an hour when Sam Bewick slipped over with an open goal at his mercy blowing the chance to put Maidstone 3-0 up.

Moments later a home midfielder pulled out of a tackle which can only be described as a "reducer".

He would probably have been sent off had he followed through, but Bognor went on to score the first of four goals, brilliantly turning the game on its head.

For a neutral, it should have been a thriller but the rain meant it was possibly one of the most miserable experiences a human can endure, if you discount war, famine and marrying Andie MacDowell.





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